



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Public Consultation Report

Bye-Law on Application for Registration for Speech  
and Language Therapists

July 2014



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## Introduction

### **About the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board**

The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board has statutory responsibility for the registration of members of the profession; approval and monitoring of education and training programmes; establishing the code of professional conduct and ethics and standards of performance to which speech and language therapists must adhere and recognition of qualifications gained outside the State.

### **About CORU**

CORU is responsible for regulating health and social care professions. It comprises the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the registration boards established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended).

CORU's role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, professional education, training and competence amongst the designated professions.

The designated professions under the Act are social workers, clinical biochemists, dietitians, medical scientists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, radiographers, social care workers and speech and language therapists.



## **The Public Consultation Process**

### **Background**

The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board has prepared a draft Bye-Law on the application for registration for consultation.

When finalised, this Bye-Law will detail the process for speech and language therapists applying for registration with the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board.

### **Publicising the Consultation Process**

A public consultation on the draft Bye-Law was held between 2 May 2014 and 6 June 2014.

A number of channels were used to publicise the consultation process and invite the submission of observations. These included:

- An advertisement was placed in the Irish Times on 2 May 2014 (See appendix one for a copy of the advertisement).
- A press release was placed on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) (See appendix two for a copy of the press release).
- An online survey was developed. An email with a link was also sent to a targeted list of over 700 stakeholders, including the Professional Bodies, Trade Unions, educators and other interested parties who have previously corresponded with CORU (see appendix 3 for a copy of the survey).
- Information on the consultation along with a link to the online feedback form was hosted on the CORU website.

People were invited to participate in the consultation process in a number of ways:

- They could ring CORU to request a copy of the draft Bye-Law, and to offer feedback
- They could visit CORU's office to view the draft Bye-Law, and give their feedback in person.
- They could visit [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) and choose to complete an online feedback form, to print a copy of the form and post it, or email it to CORU.
- They could email submissions to [consultation@coru.ie](mailto:consultation@coru.ie)



## Overview of responses to consultation

There were 2 responses to the online survey:

Respondents were asked to identify if they were offering feedback on their own behalf or on behalf of an institution or organisation. Both respondents identifies themselves as acting on their own behalf as individuals.

Individual	2
Organisation	0
Institution	0

### Acknowledgements

CORU would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all those that participated in the consultation process. The report from the consultation process was reviewed by the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board.



## Issues emerging from the consultation process

### Comments on the draft Bye-Law

#### Garda Vetting

While one respondent noted that registration was a positive thing, they asked that if applicants already had Garda clearance in place, is a new application required.

#### **Response**

In line with best practice, CORU requires that all applicants undergo Garda Vetting to help ensure the integrity of the relevant profession and to protect the public. It is important, therefore, that the information returned to CORU is up-to-date and verifiable.

#### Additional titles

One person enquired if it would be possible to protect the title "Speech Therapist".

#### **Response**

Currently, only the title "Speech and Language Therapist" will be protected.

#### General comments

No additions or removals were suggested in relation to the Bye-Law through the consultation process.

#### Conclusion

The Bye-law sets out the application requirements for registration on the Speech and Language Therapist Register. Guidance notes will be available on CORU website to assist applicants in the process. Through our on-line application system, step-by-step information is provided to applicants.

Our registration team is also be available to assist applicants by emailing [registration@coru.ie](mailto:registration@coru.ie)



## Appendix 1: Press release

May, 2014

Background:

The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board is responsible for protecting the public by fostering high standards of professional conduct, education, training and professional competence among Speech and Language Therapists. The Board is currently putting in place the foundations for the regulation of the profession and wants to hear the views of both the Public and the Profession on the:

- [Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014](#)
- [Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014](#)
- [Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Bye-Law 2014](#)

Bye-Laws for you to view:

- The relevant bye-Laws are listed below for you to read in advance of submitting your views:
- To read the text of the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)
- To read the text of the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)
- To read the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)

How to submit your views:

The Preferred Option is to use the online consultation feedback forms below. You can comment on each of the bye-laws by selecting the relevant link below. Follow the instructions and when you have completed your response on the selected bye-law just hit submit. It is not necessary to comment on all bye-laws.

- Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)
- Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014



[Click Here](#)

- Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Bye-Law 2014

[Click Here](#)

If you do not wish to submit your views online you can forward them directly by email to [consultation@coru.ie](mailto:consultation@coru.ie) or in writing to: The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Public Consultation, CORU, 13-15 The Mall, Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18.

A report outlining the consultation process will be published on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) following consideration of all submissions.

Closing date for receiving your views:

The closing date for receiving your views on the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board 3 Bye-Laws is 12.00 noon on Friday 6 June 2014. Submissions received after this time will not be considered.



## Appendix 2: Copy of Advertisement



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### Public Consultation

**The Dietitians Registration Board,  
The Occupational Therapists  
Registration Board and  
The Speech & Language Therapists  
Registration Board**

Seek the views of members of the public, the relevant professions and other interested parties on the following consultations:

- **Approved Qualifications Bye-Law**
- **Application for Registration Bye-Law**
- **Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Bye-Law**

Information on the consultation process and procedure including the text of the bye-laws can be found at [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie).

**The closing date for submitting comments is 5.00pm on Friday, 6 June 2014.**





## Appendix 3: Copy of Online Feedback Form

### **Speech & Language Therapists Registration Board: Public Consultation on Bye-Law on Application for Registration**

Thank you for taking the time to participate in CORU's consultation process on a bye-law on Application for Registration for Speech & Language Therapists.

We are currently developing a system of statutory registration for health and social care professionals. The purpose of this regulation is to protect the public.

If you have any queries about the consultation process or completing the survey, please contact CORU on 01 2933160 or email [consultation@coru.ie](mailto:consultation@coru.ie).

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5:00pm on Friday, 06/06/2014. Any submissions received after that time will not be considered. A report on the consultation process will be published on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie).

We want to hear the views of the public and the profession and by participating in this consultation process you are helping to shape how speech & language therapists are regulated.

Yours faithfully,  
Ginny Hanrahan  
Registrar

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**Q1 Contact Details:**

You do not need to provide this information but please do if you would like us to provide you with details on the outcome of this consultation process.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Q2 Are you contributing to this survey in (please tick one)**

a personal capacity? \_\_\_\_\_  
on behalf of an organisation? \_\_\_\_\_

If on behalf of an organisation, please specify the name of the organisation): \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:**

Please indicate if you would like your name and/or organisation to be kept confidential and excluded from the consultation report.

Include in consultation report

Exclude from consultation report

It would be helpful if you could explain if you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

**Question 4:**

Please provide any comments you have on the draft Bye-Law on the Application for Registration of Speech and Language Therapists?



**Question 5:**

Is there anything you believe should be added to this bye-law?

Is there anything you believe should be removed from this bye-law?

**(please tick as many as apply)**

- Advertisement in a newspaper \_\_\_\_\_
- On [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) \_\_\_\_\_
- By email \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in this consultation process. Your views will be taken into consideration.

If you have any queries please contact CORU on 01 2933160 or email [consultation@coru.ie](mailto:consultation@coru.ie)



## Appendix 4: Draft Bye-Law on application for registration

S.I. No.            of 2014

### **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS REGISTRATION BOARD APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BYE-LAW**

The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, (as amended) with the approval of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council, hereby makes the following bye-law:

1.     (1)     This bye-law may be cited as the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-law 2014.  
  
       (2)     This bye-law comes into operation on [date].
  
2.     In this bye-law –  
  
       “the Act” means the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (No. 27 of 2005) as amended from time to time;  
  
       “the Board” means the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board.
  
3.     The Board has determined that a person seeking registration shall apply to the Board by making an application in the form and containing the information set out in this bye-law, or as otherwise determined by the Board from time to time.
  
4.     An application for registration in the register shall:



- (1) be made in writing or by electronic means on such form as is provided from time to time by or on behalf of the Board;
- (2) contain the following information:
  - a. the register to which the application relates;
  - b. details and evidence of the applicant's personal and contact information;
  - c. details and evidence of the applicant's qualification(s) in reliance upon which the application is made;
  - d. details and evidence sufficient to satisfy the Board of the applicant's:
    - (i) career and employment history;
    - (ii) proof of practice in their profession (where applicable);
    - (iii) membership of professional/ regulatory bodies (where applicable); and
    - (iv) professional business operations (where applicable);
  - e. details of health and character in a format satisfactory to the Board, for the purposes of assisting the Board's consideration of the applicant as a fit and proper person to engage in the practice of the profession; and
  - f. any other information that the Board may deem necessary for the purpose of Section 37 of the Act;
- (3) be completed, signed and dated by the applicant;
- (4) be accompanied by:
  - a. the following proof and verification of identity:
    - (i) two recent colour passport-sized photographs of the applicant,
    - (ii) a certified copy of the applicant's valid passport or such suitable alternative proof of identity as the Board may from time to time determine,



- (iii) details of the applicant's personal public service number (PPSN); and
      - (iv) such other proof or verification of identity that the Board may deem necessary;
    - b. the application fee prescribed by Council under Section 18 of the Act;
    - c. a completed statutory declaration;
    - d. either:
      - (i) a fully completed and signed Garda Vetting form permitting An Garda Síochána to furnish the Board with either a statement that there are no convictions registered against the applicant or a statement of all convictions and/or prosecutions, successful or not, pending or completed, in the State or elsewhere as the case may be; or
      - (ii) a fully completed and signed application for vetting disclosure (within the meaning of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 (No. 47 of 2012)) permitting An Garda Síochána to furnish any and all information lawfully permitted; and
    - e. in the case of applicants who have lived outside of the State for such periods of time as the Board may specify, a certified copy of police clearance from the jurisdictions of previous residence (or such jurisdictions as the Board may deem appropriate) and/or such other information as the Board may from time to time determine in respect of such periods; and
  - (5) be sent or delivered to the Registrar of the Board.
5. An applicant shall comply with such requirements of the Board in respect of education, training and continuing professional development as may apply from time to time.



6. An applicant who wishes to resume the practice of the profession after not having practised the profession for such period as the Board may specify shall comply with such criteria or conditions as the Board may specify from time to time for the purposes of section 31(1)(fa) of the Act.

GIVEN under the seal of the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board  
[Date]

Chairperson, Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board  
and

Member, Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board



## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the bye-law and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).*

This bye-law details the form of and information to be contained an application to the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board for registration.