



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Public Consultation Report

Bye-Law on Approved Qualifications for Speech and
Language Therapists

June 2014

Bord Clárchúcháin na dTeiripeoirí Urlabhartha agus Teanga
Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| About CORU | 2 |
| The Public Consultation Process | 3 |
| Publicising the Consultation Process | 3 |
| Overview of responses to the consultation | 4 |
| Acknowledgments | 4 |
| Issues emerging from the consultation process | 5 |
| Conclusion | 7 |
| Appendix 1: Press Release | 8 |
| Appendix 2: Copy of advertisement | 10 |
| Appendix 3: Copy of online feedback form | 12 |
| Appendix 4: Draft Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law | 14 |

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 approved qualifications for consultation.

When finalised, this Bye-Law will detail the qualifications approved for the purposes of 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 (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 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



Overview of responses to consultation

There were 6 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.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Individual | 7 |
| Organisation | 0 |
| Institution | 0 |

Submissions were received on behalf of the following institutions and organisations:

- **None**

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

The queries raised during the consultation period can be grouped into two categories; International Qualifications and Transition Period Qualifications.

1. International Qualifications

- 1.1 You just refer to the 4 universities providing training within the state as the required qualification. Respondent qualified with the University of Ulster and is aware of a number of students who have qualifications from universities outside the state.
- 1.2 Information on recognition of qualifications of those not trained in the universities listed.
- 1.3 Provision made for qualifications gained outside the ROI isn't clear in the Bye-Law. There will be many therapists that did not qualify in the ROI especially if they qualified prior to the three newer Universities introducing their courses.

2. Response from Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board

- 2.1 Normally, holders of qualifications awarded outside the Republic of Ireland who wish to apply for registration must first apply to have their qualification recognised.
- 2.2 The Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists (IASLT) provides an advisory service regarding the recognition or international qualifications to the current Competent Authority which is the Department of Health (DoH). Once the Speech and Language Therapists Register is opened, the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board becomes the Competent Authority for the profession in Ireland and the Department of Health and the IASLT will no longer have a role in this regard. However, qualifications which have been recognised (validated) by the DoH/IASLT will remain valid and will not be subjected to a repeat the recognition/validation process.
- 2.3 Holders of international qualifications (who have not had them recognised or validated previously) will be required to have their qualifications recognised first before they are eligible to apply for registration.



2.4 Application forms, guidance notes and relevant support documents had been developed and approved by the Registration Board. This information will be made available on the Department of Health and CORU websites in the coming weeks.

3. Transition Period Qualifications

3.1 Please include in the bye-law information on how to obtain approved qualifications for speech therapists who did not qualify in the Republic of Ireland.

3.2 Query in relation to the inclusion of the L.C.S.T. qualification, the Licentiate of College of Speech Therapy. Respondent qualified with this qualification in 1979 and has been working as a Speech and Language Therapists since then.

3.3 Perhaps if this qualification is deemed appropriate it will be helpful for those who qualified before the course entered TCD.

3.4 What will be the situation for a SLT who qualified in ROI in 1973 from the Dublin College of Speech therapy with the qualification “Licentiate of the College of Speech therapists (UK)”.

3.5 An explanation for those with the above qualification as it is the only other ROI qualification that ever existed.

3.6 The respondent noted that in job descriptions that there are at least three other qualifications listed as eligible.

3.7 BA (Moderatorship remedial linguistics from the University of Dublin Licentiate from the College of Speech Therapists.

3.8 A validated speech and Language qualification at least equivalent to any of those listed.

3.9 The qualification of LCSLT is held by many of the senior and longer serving staff in Ireland. It was the understanding of the respondent that this qualification which is recognised by the validation board was to be also mentioned in the list of recognized qualifications.

3.10 List LCSLT as one of the recognized and mentioned qualifications.



4. Response from Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board

4.1 The qualifications above are listed on Schedule 3 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005. Holders of these awards can apply for registration during the transition period.

4.2 Schedule 3 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 lists the qualifications which are valid for registration during the two year transition period, (for existing practitioners under Section 91).

4.3 Holders of one of the qualifications below can apply to register with CORU during the two year period after a Register opens. Once the transitional period is over, only qualifications approved by a Registration Board will be considered.

4.4 Schedule 3 Qualifications - Speech and Language Therapists

- Bachelor of Science (Clinical Speech and Language Studies) from the University of Dublin, or
- Bachelor of Arts (Moderatorship) (Remedial Linguistics) from the University of Dublin, or
- Bachelor of Arts (Remedial Linguistics) from the University of Dublin, or
- Master of Science in Speech and Language Therapy (Professional Qualification) from the University of Limerick, or
- Licentiatehip of the College of Speech Therapists.

Other issues raised

Nil

Conclusion

The Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board considered all submissions in detail. The Board determined that it was not necessary to make amendments to the draft bye-law.



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 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 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



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

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.

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

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the advertisement consisting of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue and black, creating a modern, abstract design.



Appendix 3: Copy of Online Feedback Form

Speech & Language Therapists Registration Board: Public Consultation on Bye-Law on Approved Qualifications

Thank you for taking the time to participate in CORU's consultation process on a bye-law on the Approved Qualifications 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.

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.

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



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 Dietitians?



Question 5:

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

Question 6

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 _____
- 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



Appendix 4: Draft Bye-Law on Approved Qualifications

http://www.coru.ie/uploads/documents/Approved_Qualifications_Bye-law_SLTRB_for_public_consultation_v1.pdf