



General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland

Albany House

73-75 Great Victoria Street

Belfast, BT2 7AF

3 March 2014

Dear Noelle

GTCNI survey into perceptions of inspection

Given the concerns that you expressed about the GTCNI survey into perceptions of inspection I wanted to follow up with you personally to reiterate earlier assurances that any reporting of the survey would be sensitive and responsible.

I attach, for information, a revised draft report based on an analysis of a sub-set of respondents - school principals – which includes a significant level of qualitative (and quantitative) detail including, for example, the entirety of the verbatim comments expressed by Principals. The purpose of including this level of detail - grouped into sub-nodes according to the main thrust of the issues raised - is to give you, and colleagues, insight into the range, breadth and depth of issues being raised (acknowledging that the categorisation is open to critique and refinement).

However, in line with the commitment made regarding sensitive and responsible reporting, it is not intended that quantitative and qualitative data will be reported back to schools at this level of detail. Rather, the outcomes will be reported at a level of generalisation as part of feedback on the broader Education Committee Inquiry (as opposed to as a separate entity).

It is reassuring to note that the survey outcomes endorse the centrality of internal and external evaluation as key processes contributing to continuous school improvement. In contributing to this shared agenda GTCNI's aspiration, as discussed with you and colleagues, is to work in collaboration to develop and refine the professional competence model into a practical working document that might inform school development planning, school self-evaluation, teacher and leadership appraisal, external quality assurance and system evaluation.

We have begun to develop this work, alongside a career progression model for teachers, and I would value the opportunity to liaise with ETI colleagues in refining it into a coherent framework that commands ETI support.

I look forward to discussing this with you and colleagues in the foreseeable future.

With best wishes

Dr Carmel Gallagher (Registrar)

Cc La'Verne Montgomery