

English language requirements

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We are consulting on the introduction of English language requirements for qualified social workers. This proposal will ensure that we align with other social work regulators, as well as other regulated professionals including doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists.

We are proposing that qualified social workers applying to register will need to evidence their competence of the English language at the time of application. This will give us confidence as the social work, social care and children and young people workforce regulator that all qualified social workers practising in Scotland, regardless of where they qualified, can evidence their competence of the English language at the right level to practice safely and effectively.

* Required

Why we need your data

We want to make sure that the data from our surveys are robust. A reliable means of doing this is requiring an email address from each respondent and limiting responses to one. This allows everyone to have their say but prevents multiple responses skewing the results.

Respondents' information is subject to our data protection policy. It is treated confidentially, is only used for its intended purpose and it is removed after it has been used. We will not publish email addresses.

The information we are asking for, including the equalities information provided by individual respondents, will help us when we analyse the responses as it helps us to establish if we are reaching the right people and gives the analysis context.

What we will do with your data

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. Responses to all of the questions are optional.

We will not identify individuals in our analysis or reporting.

If a response is on behalf of an organisation it is mandatory for the respondent to accept that we may identify the organisation and their response in the consultation analysis. It won't be possible to continue with the consultation if this isn't accepted.

If we do identify the organisation and their response, we will not identify the person who has provided the response nor will we disclose any of the other information provided by the respondent.

Any responses you provide will be treated confidentially and stored online while the survey is open. When the survey is closed, the data will be moved to our secure IT system.

This survey will not store your IP address or make it available to or viewable by SSSC staff.

Lawful basis

We are relying on the lawful basis set out in Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR to process personal data for the purposes of this consultation, as the processing is necessary for the performance of our task as a regulator, which we carry out in the public interest.

We are relying on the lawful basis set out in Article 9(1)(g) of the UK GDPR to process special category data for the purposes of this consultation, as the processing is necessary for the performance of our statutory functions as a regulator, which are in the substantial public interest.

Respondents have the option to provide their equalities data. The reason we ask for this information is that it helps us to better understand the context for the responses which informs the analysis and can contribute to the decisions that are made following analysis of survey results.

How long we keep your data

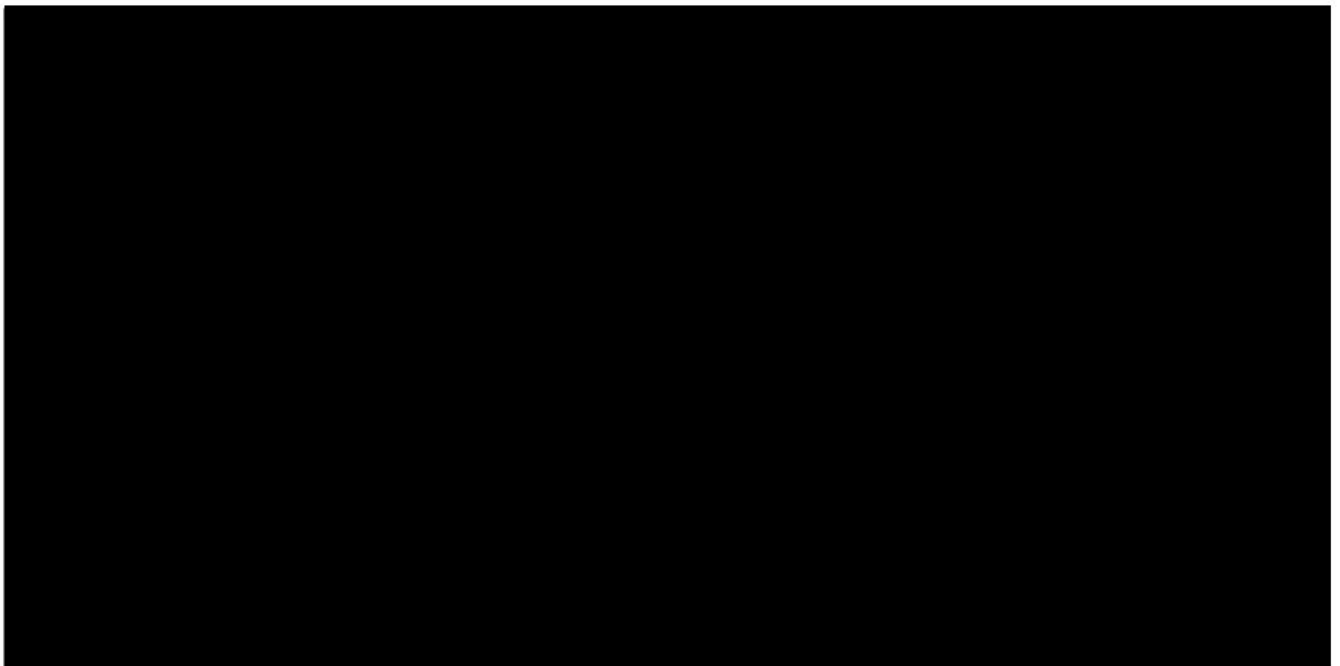
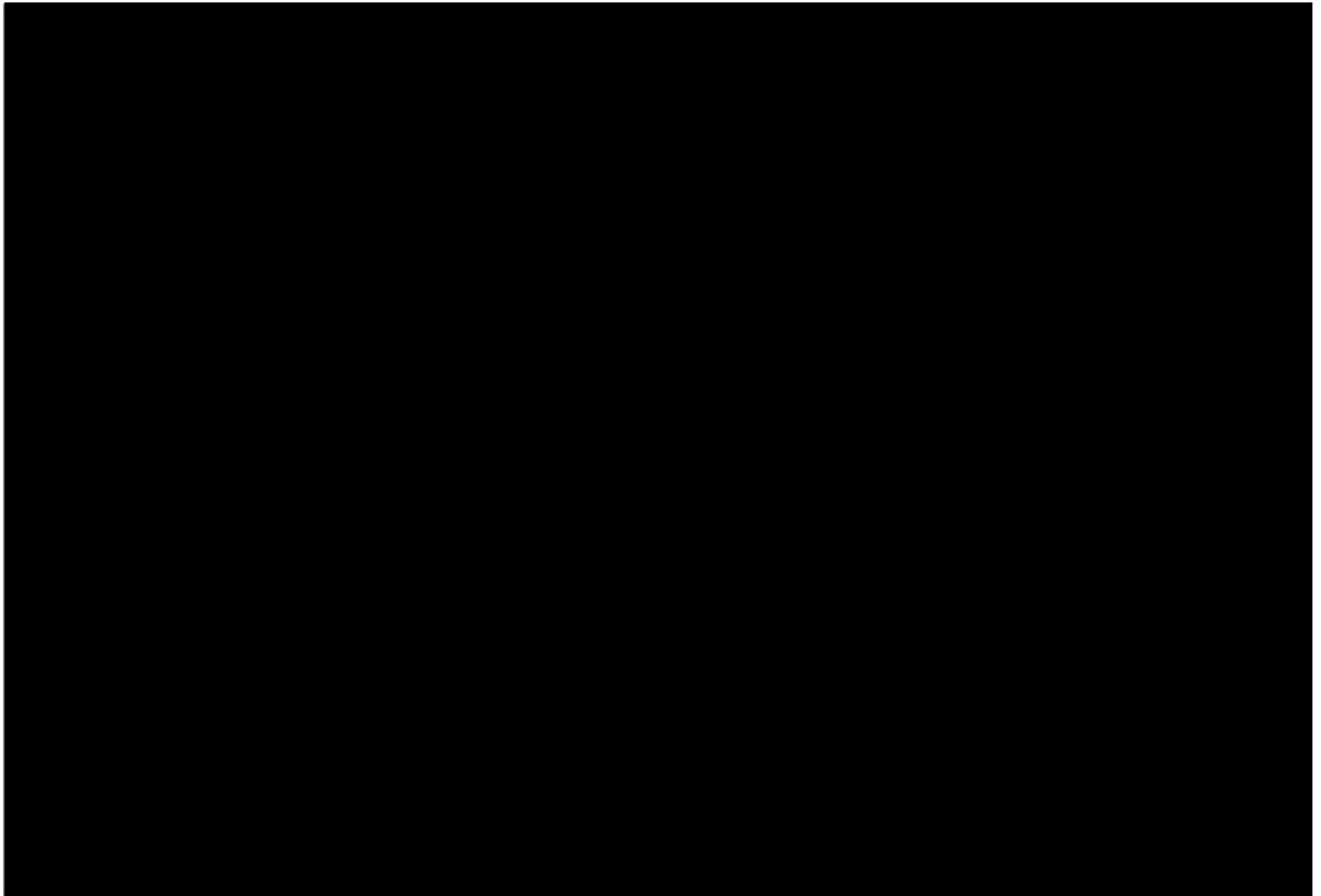
We will keep the data you provide for up to five years and then delete it. This is in line with our [Retention Schedule](#).

Your rights

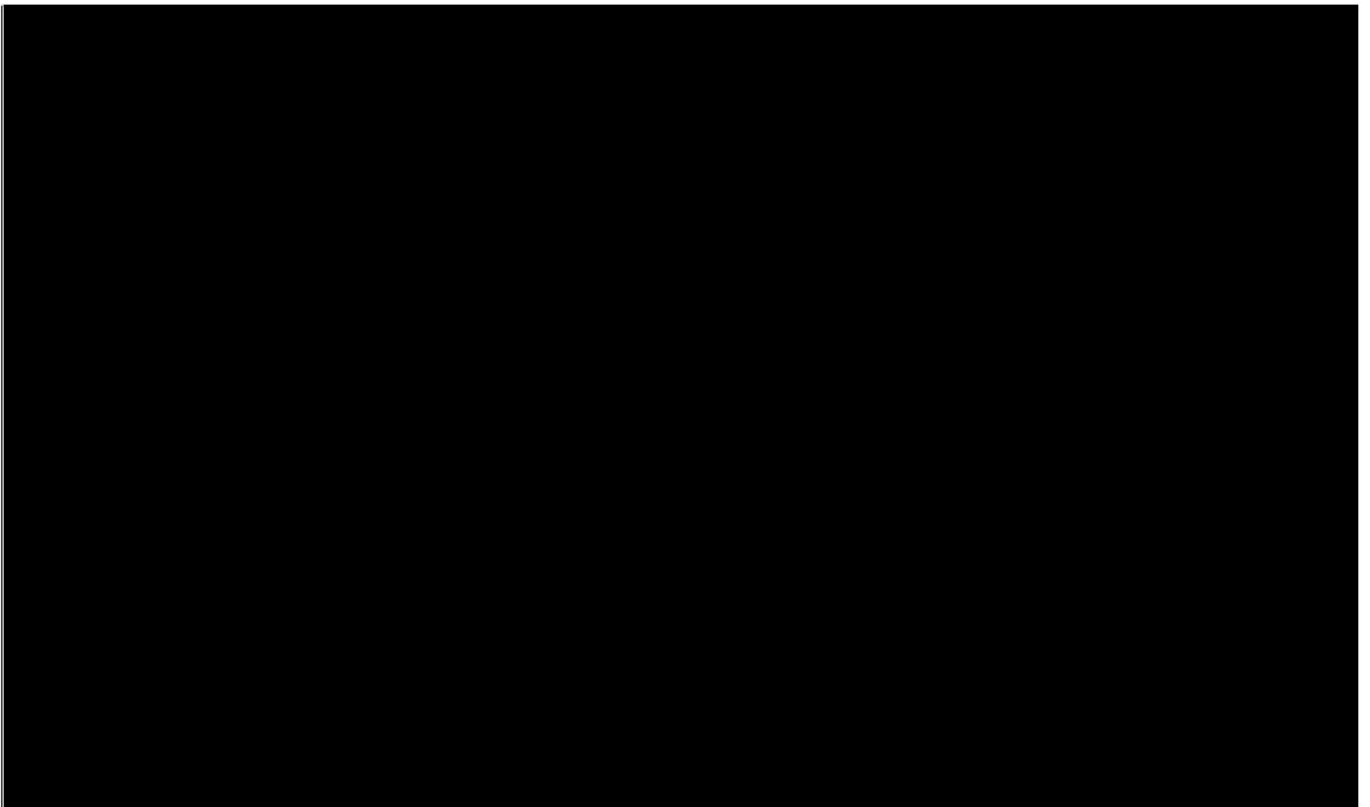
Our [Data Protection and Privacy Notice](#) sets out the rights you have under the data

protection legislation and how to contact us if you have any complaints or queries about how we process your personal information.

If you would like to request this survey in another format please contact us on 0345 60 30 891.



We would like to know about your organisation



English language requirements

8. To what extent do you agree that English language requirements for registration of qualified social workers is reasonable?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

9. Please tell us more about your answer:

Social workers undertake their work in complex social, legal and policy settings, it is important that they are able to communicate effectively in the primary language of the country they practice in. They need to be able to understand nuance and dialect to work with people in a range of communities and in challenging and emotional situations. However, we also want to be clear about the benefits that can be brought by being bilingual,

English language competencies

We are proposing four ways for people to demonstrate their competence in the English Language.

1. If an applicant holds a passport for a country on the Home Office citizenship list, we can consider this as evidence of knowledge of English.
2. The applicant has successfully completed an approved language competence test within the last two years (both the British Council and International English Language Testing System recommend a two-year validity period for this test).
3. A social work qualification can be used as evidence of knowledge of English. They must provide evidence that their social work qualification was taught in English, was awarded in the past five years and was completed in a country where English is the first and native language (based on the Home Office citizenship list) (for example, an approved Social Work course completed in Scotland).
4. The applicant has been registered and practised as a social worker in a country where English is a first and native language (based on the Home Office citizenship list) for at least year within the last five years.

10. To what extent do you agree with this approach for qualified social workers to demonstrate English language competence?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

11. Please tell us more about your answer:

Enter your answer

Equalities

12. What, if any, do you see as the main equality related issues that you feel could arise from the proposal set out in this consultation?

It is important that social work remains a profession that is inclusive and welcoming of people from all parts of society and from across the globe. Where English language skills present a barrier there should be an onus on education providers and employers to provide support to individuals so that they can both understand others and ensure they are understood. SSSC and others with responsibility for workforce development should consider types of supports and tools to ensure that equalities responsibilities are taken seriously and

13. Is there anything additional you would like to add?

Enter your answer

About you

