



LMETB RECRUITMENT & SELECTION PROCEDURES

Policy Statement

It is the Policy of Louth and Meath Education and Training Board to recruit and retain a quality staff in a fair and consistent manner, free from discrimination. To this effect, Louth and Meath ETB bases the following recruitment and selection procedures on the job description and the objective requirements of the job without bias on the grounds of the candidate's sex, marital or family status, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, race, or membership of the traveling community.

These procedures are governed and informed by the following National and European Union Legislation:

1. Articles 48 & 49 (re: Free Movement of Workers) and Article 119 (re: Equal Pay) of the Treaty of Rome, 1957, as Amended by Subsequent Treaties.
2. Employment Equality Acts, 1998-2007
3. Employment Permits Acts, 2003 & 2006
4. European Communities (Aliens) Regulations, 1977
5. Aliens Act, 1935
6. Data Protection Acts, 1998-2003
7. Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003
8. Disability Act, 2005
9. Department of Education and Skills Circular Letters/Notices/Memoranda/Collective Agreements
10. Public Service Management (Recruitment & Appointments) Act, 2004
11. Protection of Employees (Part-time Work) Act 2001
12. Protection of Employees (Fixed-Term Work) Act 2003
13. Other relevant Legislation and Collective Agreements

Procedures

Vacancy

The recruitment and selection process begins when a vacancy exists, arising from either;

- a new post
- a vacant existing post
- a substitute post

The initial steps taken are as follows;

- Determine the nature of the contract i.e. permanent whole-time/contract of indefinite duration, fixed-term, pro-rata, part-time, non-casual part-time, casual part-time
- Clarify the exact nature of duties

Advertising the Post

Louth and Meath ETB currently advertise vacancies in a number of ways, namely;

- National press
- Local press
- www.etbjobs.ie
- Vacancies section of the ETB's website

Selection Board

The primary method of selection in Louth and Meath ETB is by means of interview. A Selection Board is established in respect of each post and is requested to recommend a candidate for appointment following a selection process. The Selection Board assesses all applications against the selection criteria.

The main assessment method of short listed candidates is a formal interview, supplemented in some cases by presentations, second interviews, skills and aptitude tests.

The Selection Board

The purpose of the Selection Board is to assess the merit of each candidate and to recommend for appointment the candidate with the greatest merit, **in relation to the criteria as specified for the post**. The deliberations of the Selection Board should at all times remain confidential. The recommendation of the Selection Board is forwarded to the HR Department and confirmed for appointment by the Chief Executive.

Composition of the Selection Board

The composition of the Selection Board is dependent on the nature of the vacancy.

- Appointment and promotion of second level teaching staff is currently subject to the terms and conditions of Department of Education & Skills Circular Letter 43/00; the typical composition of such a board is three members, including an educationalist, a personnel specialist and a member of the ETB.
- Composition of Selection Boards for all staff appointments is generally a member of the ETB plus two specialists in the relevant area.

Louth and Meath ETB will strive to have a gender balance on all Selection Boards which reflects the gender balance of the candidates invited to interview. The composition of the Selection Board must be consistent at all times.

Declaration of interest

Each Selection Board member is required to complete a Declaration of Interest form before being ratified to the Selection Board.

A conflict of interest is deemed to be where a Selection Board member feels that their relationship/knowledge of an applicant will not allow them to make an unbiased judgement. A close relationship to a candidate such as Spouse/Partner/Child/other close Relative or close acquaintance is deemed to be a conflict of interest and should be declared. Should a board member identify a conflict of interest, they should bring it to the attention of a member of the Human Resources Department immediately.

Teaching Council of Ireland

The Teaching Council was established on a statutory basis in March 2006 to promote teaching as a profession at primary and post-primary levels, to promote the professional development of teachers and to regulate standards in the profession.

Under section 30 of the Teaching Council Act 2001 teachers employed in recognised schools must be registered with the Teaching Council in order to be paid from public monies by the Department of Education and Skills or an ETB.

The Minister for Education and Skills signed the commencement order for Section 30 of the Teaching Council Act 2001 on 01 November 2013 to come **into operation from a legally irrevocable date of 28 January 2014.**

The Department of Education and Skills and ETBs are prohibited by law from paying unregistered people employed in teaching positions in schools on or after 28 January 2014 except in very exceptional circumstances and for very short time periods.

Further details including registration application forms and frequently asked questions are available from the Teaching Council:

Website: www.teachingcouncil.ie

E-mail: postprimaryregistration@teachingcouncil.ie for post-primary school teachers

Louth and Meath ETB require that all applicants for teaching posts are registered with the Teaching Council and possess the relevant qualifications for that post.

For details of how to register and other information, please refer to the Teaching Council of Ireland website www.teachingcouncil.ie

DES Circular Letters:

Circular 0031/2011 – Teacher Recruitment, Registration and Qualifications

Circular 0052/2013 – Procedures on the Commencement of Section 30 in Recognised Schools

Circular 0025/2013 – Requirement for teachers in Recognised Schools to Register with the Teaching Council

c/L's re available on www.education.ie or may be obtained from the HR Department

Shortlisting

Shortlisting is the process whereby candidates are assessed against the agreed selection criteria on the basis of information provided in the application documentation, in order to identify those candidates who best satisfy those criteria for further assessment. *It is expected that given the qualifications and experience of prospective applicants, that the short-listing requirements may be significantly higher than the minimum standard set out.*

Once the application deadline has closed, the Chief Executive and the HR Department will set shortlisting criteria. Then the most suitably qualified candidates will be invited to interview.

Other Forms of Assessment

For some posts it may be necessary to supplement the interview with other forms of assessment. Shortlisted candidates will be advised in advance of any alternative forms of

assessment. The Board reserves the right to use a variety of assessment techniques; such additional forms of assessment may include inter alia the following:

- Delivering a brief presentation on a particular subject
- Demonstrating the safe use of a basic piece of equipment
- Completing an assessment of computing skills, for example word processing, spreadsheet or desktop publishing skills
- Psychometric testing
- Oral and/or written tests in the Irish Language
- Demonstration on teaching a lesson

Interview Arrangements

The HR Department will make arrangements for the interviews by:

- Preparing a schedule of interviews from the agreed shortlist
- Arranging for an appropriate venue – interviews and waiting area
- Advising shortlisted candidates of their interview date, time and venue
- Advising Selection Board members of the interview date, time and venue
- Preparing a file for each member of the Selection Board containing the advertisement, the job description (if any), the candidates application form and any supplementary documentation, Declaration of Interest form.

Guidelines for Selection Boards

- The interview file containing a copy of the post as advertised, application forms of shortlisted candidates and a draft schedule is available to board members prior to interviews. The completed schedule will be made available to the board prior to commencement of interviews.
- Each board member will be required to complete a Conflict of Interest form before being ratified to the interview board.
- A Conflict of Interest is deemed to be where a board member feels that their relationship/ knowledge of an applicant will not allow them make an unbiased judgement. A close relationship to a candidate such as Spouses/Partner/Child/ Relative or close acquaintance is deemed to be a Conflict of Interest and should be declared. Should you identify a Conflict of Interest please bring to the attention of the HR Department immediately.
- Before interviews commence, the board will be briefed by a member of the HR Department who will provide specified details for the post being interviewed, give the board any additional information and who will be on hand throughout the process to assist the board as required.
- Each candidate will be allocated equal time for their interview. All candidates will be asked the same core questions to ensure a consistent and fair approach. The board are requested to keep to the interview schedule in so far as possible.
- Suggested interview questions and interview evaluation forms will be supplied to the board prior to interviews. It is important that board members attend at the requested time to enable questions and evaluation forms to be agreed before commencement of

interviews. As the evaluation form correlates directly to the areas questioned it is important that both documents are agreed by the board before interviews begin.

- Interview questions are compiled by the HR Department in line with current employment law legislation and it is therefore important that any amendments or additions are agreed by the board and approved by HR prior to interview. Questions asked must not discriminate under any of the 9 grounds covered by Employment Equality Act, 1998 (i.e. Gender, Marital status, Family status, Age, Disability, Race, Sexual Orientation, Religious Belief and Membership of the Traveller Community).
- The board are required to elect a Chairperson (normally the Louth and Meath ETB Rep) and to nominate a secretary who is responsible for the completion of the interview evaluation forms. Each board member is required to sign off on the evaluation form. It is important to note that the evaluation form is made available to interview candidates should they request feedback.
- The evaluation form provides for marks and remarks to be completed and the board will be required to complete all sections fully. The aim of this form is to provide constructive feedback to the candidates and it is therefore important to complete the remarks section.
- In addition to the completion of an evaluation form for every candidate interviewed the board must complete the overall appointment form detailing, in order of merit, the candidate/s that are recommended for appointment to the post. Candidate/s should be placed on a panel only if the selection board is fully satisfied with the candidate/s suitability for appointment.

Referee Reports

Offer of employment will be conditional on receiving satisfactory references. References will be sought immediately following interview in respect of the recommended candidate. The nature of referee reports sought is dependent on the nature of the vacancy, at least one of the referees should be in a position to report on a previous employment.

In some instances, references may be sought prior to interview, which is notified to applicants on the application form.

Offering Appointment

It is the role solely of the Chief Executive, or the Human Resources Department if nominated by the Chief Executive, to contact the successful candidate following recommendation of the Selection Board.

Offers of employment will be contingent on receipt of the following:

- Original documentary evidence of academic qualifications
- In the case of teachers, documentary evidence of current Teaching Council Registration
- Original long version of birth certificate
- Satisfactory Garda Vetting and completion of the Statutory Declaration
- Satisfactory medical examination
- Satisfactory Referees' reports
- Satisfactory completion of all pension-related documentation
- Acceptance of Code of Conduct

Panels

Following interview a Panel may be formed from which further appointments may be made in a fixed term, fixed purpose capacity. The panel will exist for one academic year.

Each year a Teacher Substitute panel is created on basis of qualifications, Teaching Council registration and satisfactory Garda Vetting. Short term teacher substitution vacancies are filled from this panel.

Pre- Employment Medical Assessment

The primary purpose of the pre-employment medical assessment/examination is to assess an individual's fitness for a particular post or occupation with regard to the requirements of that post.

Pre-employment medical questionnaires can:

- Help ensure the individual can perform the tasks effectively
- Detect an infirmity that may be of danger to the worker or co-worker
- Help determine if the job poses a health risk
- Advise if any job restrictions or accommodations are required
- Facilitate health and safety best practice

LMETB requires all successful candidates to complete a pre-employment medical assessment. In the case of Teachers and Special Needs Assistants the pre-employment medical assessment will be carried out by the DES approved Occupational Health Service via their website www.medmark4teachers.ie or www.medmark4snas.ie . All other appointee will be medically assessed by a doctor nominated by LMETB.

Original Documentary Evidence of Qualifications

The successful candidate is required to submit original documentary evidence of his/her academic qualifications from the awarding institution i.e. his/her academic transcripts for each year of study (statement of results) and parchment/s, following acceptance of the offer of employment. Teachers must also provide documentary evidence of current Teaching Council Registration and evidence of the subjects they are registered to teach and any conditions placed on them by the Teaching Council e.g. conditional on post qualification experience.

Garda Vetting

Louth and Meath ETB is registered with the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána which provides a disclosure service for organisations who have staff positions which involve regular access to, or contact with, children and vulnerable adults. As part of the LMETB recruitment and selection process, each offer of employment to posts where working with children and vulnerable persons, is subject to a satisfactory outcome of the GV process.

LMETB reserves the right to have employees vetted every 5 years or more frequently, if deemed necessary.

Newly Registered Teachers will be vetted through the Teaching Council; all other employees will be invited to be vetted by Louth and Meath ETB.

As an additional safeguard, under DES Circular Letter 0031/2016, a child protection related Statutory Declaration must be provided by all persons being appointed to teaching and non-

teaching positions of any duration. A Statutory Declaration is regarded as valid if made in the same or previous calendar year. In addition, the associated undertaking (which is specific to the employing school authority) must be signed by all persons prior to commencing employment of any duration. DES Circular Letter 0031/2016 may be obtained from www.education.ie or from the HR Department.

Advising Unsuccessful Candidates

The HR Department will advise unsuccessful candidates as soon as possible after interview.

Post Interview Feedback

A copy of the Interview Evaluation Form, which is completed by the Selection Board for each candidate, is available upon request to any candidate seeking post interview feedback.

The Interview Evaluation Form details the marks allotted in respect of the selection criteria and will be made available on receipt of an email request to recruitment@lmetb.ie

Work Permits

A work permit is an employment permit issued to the employee, which permits his/her employment in the State by the employer in the occupation stated on the permit. In general, non-EEA* nationals must have a permit to work in Ireland. EEA and Swiss nationals do not need an employment permit, except for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

**The EEA (European Economic Area) consists of the EU member states together with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.*

Louth and Meath ETB comply with guidelines with regard to work permits as laid down by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation from time to time.