



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Public Consultation Report

Bye-Law on Approved Qualifications for  
Dietitians

August 2014



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## Introduction

### **About the Dietitians Registration Board**

The Dietitians 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 dietitians 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 Dietitians Registration Board published the draft Bye-Law Approved Qualifications 2014 for public consultation on 2 May 2014. This Bye-Law detailed the qualification approved for the purposes of registration with the Dietitians Registration Board.

The feedback from the consultation process highlighted a requirement for the Dietitians Registration Board to establish a route for students awarded the Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics with honours classification from the University of Dublin and a Graduate Diploma in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the Dublin Institute of Technology to apply for registration. The Board agreed to list this qualification on a revised Qualification Bye-Law and to re-publish for Public Consultation.

The revised draft Qualification Bye-law listed two qualifications and was published for public consultation on 11 July 2014.

This report sets out the results of both public consultations and the Board's response to the issues raised.

### Publicising the Consultation Process

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

The second public consultation on the draft Bye-Law was held between 11 July 2014 and 12 August 2014.

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

- An advertisement was placed in the Irish Times on 2 May 2014 and 14 July 2014 (See appendices two and six for a copy of the advertisements).
- A press release was placed on [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie) (See appendices one and five 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 appendices 3 and 7 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

Consultation 2 May – 6 June		Consultation 11 July – 12 August	
Number of respondents to the online survey			
9		8	
Respondents were asked to identify if they were offering feedback on their own behalf or on behalf of an institution or organization			
Individual	Organisation	Individual	Organisation
5	2	8	0

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

- University of Ulster
- Dublin Institute of Technology/Trinity College Dublin
- Cara Cunningham
- Helen McCloskey
- Elizabeth Rafferty

### Acknowledgements

CORU would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all those that participated in the consultation process. The report, incorporating feedback from both consultation processes was reviewed by the Dietitians Registration Board on 2 September 2014.



## Issues emerging from the consultation process

The content of the submissions received regarding this Bye-Law have been categorized as follows:

- 1.1 Issues regarding qualification awarded between 2006 and 2013
- 1.2 International Qualifications
- 1.3 Qualifications already validated by Department of Health
- 1.4 Title of qualification
- 1.5 Schedule 3 qualifications

### 1.1 Issues regarding qualification awarded between 2006 and 2013

In the first consultation one respondent noted that the qualification awarded between 2006 and 2013 needs to be included in the approved qualification bye-law as there is a cohort of students who graduated between 2006 and 2013 with a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics with honours classification from the University of Dublin and a Graduate Diploma in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the Dublin Institute of Technology who may not have 2 years practise as a dietitian prior to the opening of the dietitians Register.

#### Dietitians Registration Board response

The Dietitians Registration Board discussed this issue at their meeting on the 3 July 2014. They requested the Executive to consider mechanisms to list this qualification on the bye-law. A second bye-law was drafted listing two qualifications and published on 11 July, 2014. The DRB agreed that this qualification attests to the standards of proficiency as determined by the Board and therefore approved that the Bye-Law would contain both qualifications.

### 1.2 International Qualifications

Most of the feedback from both consultations referred to the omission of the qualifications obtained the UK and Northern Ireland. There was a particular concern about the omission of the qualification from University of Ulster due to the ongoing interaction, particularly events between DIT/TCD and University of Ulster. Clarity in relation to equivalent qualifications from other countries that are recognized e.g. UK/Australia/NZ/USA/South Africa was requested.

#### Dietitians Registration Board response

Qualifications awarded outside the jurisdiction cannot be listed in the bye-law. However, as the Dietitians Registration Board is the Competent Authority, holders of qualifications awarded outside the Republic of Ireland who wish to apply for registration must first apply to have their qualification recognised. The Board, as Competent Authority, is obliged to consider each qualification on a case by case basis and could not act outside of its jurisdiction. While the Board recognises the importance of the ongoing interaction between DIT/TCD and University of Ulster, it must adhere to the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended) and to Directive 2005/36/EC.



### 1.3 Qualifications validated by the Department of Health

There were comments in relation to other Dietetic qualifications validated by the Department of Health and a request to include an “equivalent qualification” to the DIT/TCD degree.

#### Dietitians Registration Board response

Professionals who have their qualifications validated by the Department of Health are not required to apply via the Competent Authority. There is provision in the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended) for holders of international qualifications already validated by the Department of Health to apply for registration.

### 1.4 Title of qualification on bye-law

One respondent requested the bye-law to refer to a defined level of education and training rather than specific courses from specific institutions.

#### Dietitians Registration Board response

The Dietitians Registration Board, for the purposes of Section 38(2)(a) (as amended) of the Act, must list the qualification as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration.

One email respondent noted that the title of the “Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, University of Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and the Dublin Institute of Technology” is incorrect because of the following:

- Qualification should read “Bachelor in Science”
- The word “Honours” does not appear in the title of Trinity degree
- The degree is awarded by University of Dublin and should not include Trinity College
- Course may be run jointly with DIT but it is the University of Dublin that awards the degree.

#### Dietitians Registration Board response

The Executive received confirmation on the qualification title from the registrar of DIT. The parchment issued to students states “Bachelor of Science” while the TCD calendar states “Bachelor in Science”

The TCD calendar refers to the degree being “awarded jointly by the University of Dublin and the DIT. The president of DIT and the Registrar of TCD sign the degree certificate.

It does not appear that the word “Honours” should appear in the title on the bye-law



### **1.5 Schedule 3 qualifications**

A number of respondents noted that there are number of professionals who hold Irish qualifications not listed on the bye-law qualification.

#### **Dietitians Registration Board response**

There is provision in the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended) for holders of older qualifications to apply for registration.

These qualifications are listed on Schedule 3 of the Act and are eligible to apply for registration during the 2 year transition period. The two year transition period commences when the Dietitians Registration Board's Register opens.

Existing practitioners are encouraged to check the schedule of legacy qualifications (listed on Schedule 3 of the HSCP Act) and apply when the Dietitians Register opens in order to avail of these transitional arrangements.

#### **Other issues**

No other issues were raised in relation to the draft bye-law.

#### **Conclusion**

The Dietitians Registration Board considered all submissions in detail. The Board determined that it was not necessary to make amendments to the revised draft bye-law.



## Appendix 1: Press release

May, 2014

Background:

The Dietitians Registration Board is responsible for protecting the public by fostering high standards of professional conduct, education, training and professional competence among Dietitians.

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:

- [Dietitians Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014](#)
- [Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014](#)
- [Dietitians 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 Dietitians Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)
- To read the text of the Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)
- To read the Dietitians 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.

- Dietitians Registration Board Application for Registration Bye-Law 2014
- [Click Here](#)
- Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014
- [Click Here](#)
- Dietitians 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 Dietitians 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 Dietitians 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](http://www.coru.ie).

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





## Appendix 3: Copy of Online Feedback Form

### **Dietitians 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 Dietitians.

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 dietitians 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 Approved Qualifications for Dietitians?

**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 Approved Qualifications

S.I. No.            of 2014

### DIETITIANS REGISTRATION BOARD APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS BYE-LAW 2014

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

1.        (1)        The bye-law may be cited as the Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-law 2014.

(2)        The bye-law comes into operation on [INSERT DATE] 2014.

2.        In the bye-law –

“the Act” means the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (no.27 of 2005) (as amended from time to time);

“the Register” means the register of the Dietitians Registration Board established under section 36(1)(a) of the Act.

3.        The Dietitians Registration Board, for the purposes of Section 38(2)(a) (as amended) of the Act, hereby approves the following qualifications as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration:

(1) Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Dublin Institute of Technology and the University of Dublin, and

(2) Bachelor in Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Dublin, and a Graduate Diploma in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the Dublin Institute of Technology.



GIVEN under the seal  
of the Dietitians Registration Board

[INSERT DATE] 2014

Chairperson, Dietitians Registration Board

and

Member, Dietitians Registration Board



## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This bye-law identifies the qualifications awarded in the State which are approved by the Dietitians Registration Board as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration with the Dietitians Registration Board.



## Appendix 5: Press release

### Public Consultation - Dietitians Registration Board - Approved Qualifications July, 2014

Background:

The Dietitians Registration Board is responsible for protecting the public by fostering high standards of professional conduct, education, training and professional competence among Dietitians.

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 revised [Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014](#)

Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014:

To read the text of the Dietitians Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2014 [Click Here](#)

Your Views

Comments can be submitted as follows: -

By completing the online consultation feedback form which can be found by [clicking here](#)

By emailing: [consultation@coru.ie](mailto:consultation@coru.ie)

In writing to Public Consultation, CORU, 13 - 15 The Mall, Beacon Court, Bracken Rd., 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

The consultation process will close at 4pm on Tuesday 12 August 2014.  
Submissions received after this time will not be considered.



## Appendix 6: Copy of Advertisement

A public consultation advertisement for the Dietitians Registration Board. The ad features the CORU logo and text in both Irish and English. It announces a public consultation on the 'Approved Qualifications Bye-Law' and provides a closing date of 4.00pm on Tuesday 12th August 2014. Contact information for CORU is provided at the bottom.

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

**Public Consultation**

**The Dietitians Registration Board**  
seeks the views of members of the public, the relevant professions and other interested parties on the following consultation:

- **Approved Qualifications Bye-Law**

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

**The closing date for submitting comments is 4.00pm on Tuesday 12th August 2014.**

CORU, 13-15 The Mall, Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18.  
T: 01 2933160 E: [info@coru.ie](mailto:info@coru.ie) W: [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)



## Appendix 7: Copy of Online Feedback Form

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

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 4:00pm on Tuesday, 12 August 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 dietitians are regulated.

Yours faithfully,

Ginny Hanrahan  
Registrar

### 1. 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.

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

### 2. 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:

### 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.

**4. Please provide any comments you have on the draft Bye-Law on the Approved Qualifications for Dietitians**

**5. Is there anything you believe should be added to this Bye-Law?**

**6. Is there anything you believe should be removed from this Bye-Law?**

**7. How did you hear about this consultation? (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)**