

Relevant qualifications have been shown to support social workers to deliver safe, effective practice. NISCC have linked obtaining Professional in Practice (PiP) requirements to the first renewal point of registration for registrants who completed the AYE after 1st April 2011. This requirement is outlined in the following document -NISCC General Guidance for Social Work Registrants/Post Registration Training and Learning (PRTL) June 2011 This document is available at www.niscc.info

Following successful completion of the Assessed Year in Employment social workers will have a further condition placed on their registration requiring them to complete a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award in the PiP. This must be achieved by the time of their first three year renewal.

If you do not hold the two requirements at the point of renewal, your registration will be called into question and you may not be able to practise as a social worker.

How do you renew your registration?

At the end of your registration period you must complete a renewal application form. This form is available to download from www.niscc.info Renewal will only be granted if the following requirements are met:

- You have fulfilled any condition attached to your registration
- NISCC have received satisfactory evidence of your good character, good conduct, good health and competence
- You have completed the minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award in the PiP
- You have paid the renewal fee

What will happen at the point of renewal?

If you can meet the PiP requirements:

- If you are *currently employed* as a social worker, meet all the requirements for renewal and can provide evidence on your renewal application that you hold a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award then your registration will be renewed for a further three years.
- If you are *not currently employed* as a social worker but can demonstrate that you have completed the minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award in the PiP your registration will be renewed for a further 3 years

If you cannot meet the PQ requirements:

- If you are employed as a social worker and cannot provide evidence of holding a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award you will be referred to the Registration Committee at NISCC who will make a decision about your registration status.

The Registration Committee may decide:

- To grant an extension period to enable you to obtain the two requirements;

OR

- To remove your entry from the register.

Deferral Due to Exceptional Circumstances

It is appreciated that there may be some exceptional circumstances which are beyond your control and may prevent you from completing the two requirements of the Specific Award. You shall not be referred to the Registration Committee if you have been unable to complete the two requirements due to:

- Exceptional circumstances - These will be reviewed on a case by case basis and will require you to submit a letter, outlining your reasons to the NISCC registration team at least 20 days before renewal is due.

OR

- Maternity, adoption or fostering leave

Registrants who are working in Social Care

- Some registrants on Part 1 of the register for qualified social workers may currently be working in social care and not able to complete the two requirements. In such circumstances it may be appropriate to move to Part 2 of the register for social care workers. You can do this by notifying the NISCC Registration Team using a Change of Circumstances form available from www.niscc.info or by email to: info@niscc.hscni.net
- You can re-apply for Part 1 of the register for qualified social workers if/when you obtain a social work post. In order to do so you must submit a new application to register using form AF10 ,available from www.niscc.info

Registrants who are not currently working in social work/social care

- If you are not working as a social worker or a social care worker you may voluntarily remove yourself from the register and apply to reregister when you obtain employment as a social worker/social care worker. You can voluntarily remove yourself by sending in a Change of Circumstance form to the Registration Team at NISCC or by email to: info@niscc.hscni.net.

Returning to the Register

If you obtain a post in social care/social work you can apply to the relevant part of the register by submitting application form AF10 available from www.niscc.info If you register as a social worker your registration will include a condition that you obtain a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award within a three year period from the date of your entry on Part 1 of the register.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I obtain the minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award?

It is important that as soon as you complete the AYE you contact your employer to confirm that you need to obtain a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award and to discuss your options for obtaining the requirements.

What are the options for a registrant to obtain two requirements at Consolidation Award level?

All social workers seeking to gain PiP requirements must be enrolled with the Professional in Practice partnership.. Information on how to do this is available from your employer or on the NISCC web site.

You can undertake an PiP Approved Programme. The most popular option is the Initial Professional Development Programme, offered in partnership with employers and the University of Ulster. One module of this programme will give you the two requirements you need for renewal of registration. Many social workers choose to complete the three modules in the programme and obtain the full Consolidation Award. There are a range of programmes that offer the opportunity to obtain the two requirements, see detail of PiP Approved Programmes on the NISCC website. The other option is to compile a submission for the Individual Assessment Route. This is a flexible route enabling you to make a submission through a range of methods such as assignments, portfolios, direct observations or an In Service Schedule. There are two submission points in the year, the first Monday in March and the first Monday in October. Many employers offer support sessions to enable you to compile a submission. You can find more detailed information at www.niscc.info in Guidance for Candidates on the Individual Assessment Route.

How will achievement at Post Qualifying contribute to my Post Registration Training and Learning (PRTL)?

Achievement of a minimum of two requirements of the Consolidation Award will meet the 90 hour requirement for this period and exempts you from the NISCC Annual Audit process.