

**Health Professions Council  
Education & Training Committee 29/03/06**

**ETS Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Internet Based Testing (IBT)**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**Introduction**

The HPO Registration Rules 2003 No. 1572 allow for the HPC to set English language requirements to test applicant's knowledge of spoken and written English. This was set in the Standards of Proficiency at IELTS level 7.0 with no element below 6.5 (IELTS level 8.0 with no element below 7.5 for SLT's) or its equivalent.

Following this, several other tests were deemed to be equivalent, two of which were the ETS TOEFL (Paper & Computer) tests. ETS are a not for profit research, educational and testing organisation based in the USA with offices worldwide.

ETS have launched a new secure method of language testing TOEFL (IBT) to replace the current two systems in place. HPC currently accepts the TOEFL paper test score of 600 (SLT - 670) & TOEFL computer test score of 250 (SLT - 290).

**Decision**

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

To accept the new ETS TOEFL (IBT) test and the score of 100 as comparable to IELTS 7.0 for all professions excluding SLT's.

To accept the new ETS TOEFL (IBT) test and the score of 118 as comparable to IELTS 8.0 for Speech & Language Therapists.

**Background information**

The new format Internet Based Test (IBT) has a comparable score given by ETS as 100 (SLT - 118). Score range is 0-120.

The old tests will be phased out by the end of 2006 leaving only the Internet Based Test (IBT) in their place.

This system was launched in September 2005 and consists of 4.5 hours of testing including - Listening, Reading, Speaking, Comprehension & Writing Skills. Tests scores are viewable on-line within 10 days of the test being taken.

**Resource implications**

n/a

**Financial implications**

**n/a**

**Appendices**

**ETS TOEFL Score comparison table**

**Date of paper**

**17.03.06**