



Teaching
Regulation
Agency

Mr Juan Torrecillas- Molina: Professional conduct panel outcome

**Panel decision and reasons on behalf of the
Secretary of State for Education**

June 2025

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Professional conduct panel decision and recommendations, and decision on behalf of the Secretary of State

Teacher: Mr Juan Torrecillas-Molina

Teacher ref number: 0742693

Teacher date of birth: 20 May 1968

TRA reference: 23692

Date of determination: 16 June 2025

Former employer: St Anselm's College, Wirral

Introduction

A professional conduct panel ("the panel") of the Teaching Regulation Agency ("the TRA") convened on 16 June 2025 by way of a virtual hearing, to consider the case of Mr Juan Torrecillas-Molina.

The panel members were Mr Peter Whitelock (lay panellist – in the chair), Mrs Julie Wells (teacher panellist) and Ms Geraldine Baird (lay panellist).

The legal adviser to the panel was Mrs Samantha Cass of Birketts LLP solicitors.

The presenting officer for the TRA was Mr James Lloyd of Mountford Chambers, instructed by Brabners LLP solicitors.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina was not present and was not represented.

The hearing took place in public and was recorded.

Allegations

The panel considered the allegations set out in the notice of hearing dated 12 February 2025.

It was alleged that Mr Torrecillas-Molina was guilty of having been convicted of a relevant offence, in that:

1. On 27 February 2024, he was convicted at Merseyside Magistrates Court of:
 - a) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category B indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;
 - b) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category C indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;
 - c) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 36 Category A indecent photographs/ pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;
 - d) Between 20 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 possessing 42 indecent photographs of a child contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina made no admission of fact prior to the hearing.

Preliminary applications

Application to proceed in the absence of the teacher

The panel considered an application from the presenting officer to proceed in the absence of Mr Torrecillas-Molina.

The panel noted that the notice of hearing was delivered to Mr Torrecillas-Molina on 12 February 2025 and a reminder was sent on 14 March 2025. Mr Torrecillas-Molina acknowledged receipt of the notice of hearing by email on 18 March 2025.

The presenting officer provided evidence to confirm that Mr Torrecillas-Molina was aware of the allegations and had voluntarily chosen not to participate in the hearing and had waived his right to legal representation. The panel noted email correspondence from Mr Torrecillas-Molina as recently as 18 March 2025 confirming his intention to not attend the hearing.

The panel was satisfied that Mr Torrecillas-Molina was aware of the allegations and the listed hearing, and an adjournment of the hearing would not result in his attendance. The panel also took account of the public interest considerations to deal with the hearing within a reasonable period of time and the adverse effect an adjournment could have on the regulator and on Mr Torrecillas-Molina who had indicated that he did not intend to attend the hearing. The panel was satisfied that Mr Torrecillas-Molina received the notice of hearing and associated documentation in good time and had the opportunity to engage with the process.

The panel decided therefore to proceed in the absence of Mr Torrecillas-Molina.

Summary of evidence

Documents

In advance of the hearing, the panel received a bundle of documents which included:

Section 1: Pleadings – pages 3 to 36

Section 2: Teaching Regulation Agency documents – pages 37 to 86

The panel members confirmed that they had read all of the documents within the bundle, in advance of the hearing.

In the consideration of this case, the panel had regard to the document Teacher misconduct: Disciplinary procedures for the teaching profession May 2020 (the “Procedures”).

Witnesses

The TRA did not call any witnesses to give oral evidence at the hearing.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina was not present and did not give evidence at the hearing.

Decision and reasons

The panel announced its decision and reasons as follows:

The panel carefully considered the case before it and reached a decision.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina was charged with the offences as set out above and was subsequently convicted of the offences on 27 February 2024.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced in respect of the offences on the 26 March 2024 at Liverpool Crown Court.

The matter was referred to the TRA on 10 May 2024.

Findings of fact

The findings of fact are as follows:

The panel found the following particulars of the allegations against you proved, for these reasons:

1. On 27 February 2024, you were convicted at Merseyside Magistrates Court of:

- a) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category B indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;**
- b) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category C indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;**
- c) Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 36 Category A indecent photographs/ pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;**
- d) Between 20 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 possessing 42 indecent photographs of a child contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.**

The panel noted page 8 of the Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers ('the Advice') which states that where there has been a conviction at any time, of a criminal offence, the panel will accept the certificate of conviction as conclusive proof of both the conviction and the facts necessarily implied by the conviction, unless exceptional circumstances apply. The panel did not find that any exceptional circumstances applied in this case.

The panel had been provided with a copy of the certificate of conviction from Liverpool Crown Court, which detailed that Mr Torrecillas-Molina pleaded guilty and was convicted on 27 February 2024 of the following offences:

- Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category B indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;

- Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 3 Category C indecent photographs/pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;
- Between 30 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 making 36 Category A indecent photographs/ pseudo-photographs of a child contrary to section 1(a) of the Protection of Children Act 1978;
- Between 20 April 2011 and 7 June 2023 possessing 42 indecent photographs of a child contrary to section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

In respect of the convictions, Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced on 26 March 2024.

In respect of allegation 1(a), Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced to: 3 months imprisonment (suspended for 2 years); a rehabilitation activity requirement; carry out unpaid work; register with the police; and a 10-year sexual harm prevention order.

In respect of allegation 1(b), Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced to: 1 month imprisonment (suspended for 2 years); a rehabilitation activity requirement; carry out unpaid work; register with the police; and a 10-year sexual harm prevention order.

In respect of allegation 1(c), Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced to: 8 months imprisonment (suspended for 2 years); a rehabilitation activity requirement; carry out unpaid work; forfeiture and destruction of 2 devices; register with the police; a 10-year sexual harm prevention order.

In respect of allegation 1(d), Mr Torrecillas-Molina was sentenced to: 8 months imprisonment (suspended for 2 years); a rehabilitation activity requirement; carry out unpaid work; register with the police; and a 10-year sexual harm prevention order.

The panel found allegations 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d) proven.

Findings as to conviction of a relevant offence

Having found all of the allegations proved, the panel went on to consider whether the facts of those proved allegations amounted to conviction of a relevant offence.

In doing so, the panel had regard to the document Teacher misconduct: The prohibition of teachers, which is referred to as “the Advice”.

The panel first considered whether the conduct of Mr Torrecillas-Molina, in relation to the facts found proved, involved breaches of the Teachers’ Standards.

The panel considered that, by reference to Part 2, Mr Torrecillas-Molina was in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions
 - showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others
 - not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach, and maintain high standards...
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The offences were relevant to teaching, working with children and/or working in an education setting because the serious misconduct of Mr Torrecillas-Molina, for which he received a conviction and a suspended sentence, involved indecent photographs/pseudo photographs of children.

The panel noted that the behaviour involved in committing the offences could have had an impact on the safety and/or security of pupils and/or members of the public.

The panel also took account of the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. The panel considered that Mr Torrecillas-Molina's behaviour in committing the offences could affect public confidence in the teaching profession, given the influence that teachers may have on pupils, parents and others in the community.

The panel noted that Mr Torrecillas-Molina's behaviour ultimately led to sentences of imprisonment, (albeit that they were suspended), which was indicative of the seriousness of the offences committed.

The panel also considered the offences listed on pages 12 and 13 of the Advice.

This was a case concerning offences involving any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing or publishing any indecent photograph or image or pseudo photograph or image of a child, or permitting any such activity, including one-off incidents, which the Advice states are likely to be considered relevant offences.

The panel considered the seriousness/gravity of the offences and considered that these were very serious offences which appeared to have taken place over a significant period of time.

The panel was not aware of or provided with any evidence of any evidence of mitigating circumstances which may have affected Mr Torrecillas-Molina's conduct at the time the offences were committed.

The panel found that the seriousness of Mr Torrecillas-Molina's offending behaviour that led to convictions was relevant to Mr Torrecillas-Molina's ongoing suitability to teach. The panel considered that a finding that these convictions were for relevant offences was necessary to reaffirm clear standards of conduct so as to maintain public confidence in the teaching profession.

Panel's recommendation to the Secretary of State

Given the panel's findings in respect of a conviction of a relevant offence, it was necessary for the panel to go on to consider whether it would be appropriate to recommend the imposition of a prohibition order by the Secretary of State.

In considering whether to recommend to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be made, the panel had to consider whether it would be an appropriate and proportionate measure, and whether it would be in the public interest to do so. Prohibition orders should not be given in order to be punitive, or to show that blame has been apportioned, although they are likely to have punitive effect.

The panel had regard to the particular public interest considerations set out in the Advice and, having done so, found a number of them to be relevant in this case, namely: the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils; the protection of other members of the public; the maintenance of public confidence in the profession; and declaring and upholding proper standards of conduct.

In light of the panel's findings against Mr Torrecillas-Molina which involved him receiving convictions and suspended prison sentences for making and/or possessing indecent photographs/pseudo photographs of children, there was a strong public interest consideration in the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils and the protection of other members of the public.

Similarly, the panel considered that public confidence in the profession could be seriously weakened if conduct such as that found against Mr Torrecillas-Molina was not treated with the utmost seriousness when regulating the conduct of the profession.

The panel was of the view that a strong public interest consideration in declaring proper standards of conduct in the profession was also present as the conduct found against Mr Torrecillas-Molina was outside that which could reasonably be tolerated.

In addition to the public interest considerations set out above, the panel went on to consider whether there was a public interest in retaining Mr Torrecillas-Molina in the profession. The panel was not provided with any evidence as to Mr Torrecillas-Molina's abilities as an educator albeit noted that, up to the point of the allegations, he had a long career in teaching.

The panel considered carefully the seriousness of the behaviour, noting that the Advice states that the expectation of both the public and pupils, is that members of the teaching profession maintain an exemplary level of integrity and ethical standards at all times.

In view of the clear public interest considerations that were present, the panel considered carefully whether or not it would be proportionate to impose a prohibition order, taking into account the effect that this would have on Mr Torrecillas-Molina.

The panel took further account of the Advice, which suggests that a prohibition order may be appropriate if certain behaviours of a teacher have been proved. In the list of such behaviours, those that were relevant in this case were:

- serious departure from the personal and professional conduct elements of the Teachers' Standards;
- the commission of a serious criminal offence, including those that resulted in a conviction or caution, paying particular attention to offences that are 'relevant matters' for the purposes of the Police Act 1997 and criminal record disclosures;
- misconduct seriously affecting the education and/or safeguarding and well-being of pupils, and particularly where there is a continuing risk; and
- any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing, or publishing any indecent photograph or image, or indecent pseudo photograph or image, of a child, or permitting such activity, including one-off incidents.

Even though some of the behaviour found proved in this case indicated that a prohibition order would be appropriate, the panel went on to consider the mitigating factors. Mitigating factors may indicate that a prohibition order would not be appropriate or proportionate.

There was no evidence that Mr Torrecillas-Molina's actions were not deliberate.

There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Torrecillas-Molina was acting under extreme duress.

There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Torrecillas-Molina had demonstrated exceptionally high standards in his personal and professional conduct or had contributed significantly to the education sector.

The panel noted that there was a lack of evidence of any insight and remorse on the part of Mr Torrecillas-Molina.

The panel first considered whether it would be proportionate to conclude this case with no recommendation of prohibition, considering whether the publication of the findings made by the panel would be sufficient.

The panel was of the view that, applying the standard of the ordinary intelligent citizen, it would not be a proportionate and appropriate response to recommend no prohibition order. Recommending that the publication of adverse findings would be sufficient would unacceptably compromise the public interest considerations present in this case, despite the severity of the consequences for Mr Torrecillas-Molina of prohibition.

The panel was of the view that prohibition was both proportionate and appropriate. The panel decided that the public interest considerations outweighed the interests of Mr Torrecillas-Molina. The gravity of the offending over a significant period of time was a significant factor in forming that opinion. Accordingly, the panel made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be imposed with immediate effect.

The panel went on to consider whether or not it would be appropriate for it to decide to recommend a review period of the order. The panel was mindful that the Advice states that a prohibition order applies for life, but there may be circumstances, in any given case, that may make it appropriate to allow a teacher to apply to have the prohibition order reviewed after a specified period of time that may not be less than 2 years.

The Advice indicates that there are certain types of case where, if relevant, the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of not offering a review period.

One of these includes:

- any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing or publishing any indecent photograph or image or indecent pseudo photograph or image of a child, including one off incidents.

The panel was not provided with any evidence of any mitigating circumstances. Further, the panel was not aware of the extent to which Mr Torrecillas-Molina had shown insight into his actions or remorse. As such, the panel found that a review period would not be appropriate and that the convictions and sentencing indicated a significant risk of repetition of Mr Torrecillas-Molina's conduct.

The panel decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would not be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended without provisions for a review period.

Decision and reasons on behalf of the Secretary of State

I have given very careful consideration to this case and to the recommendation of the panel in respect of both sanction and review period.

In considering this case, I have also given very careful attention to the Advice that the Secretary of State has published concerning the prohibition of teachers.

In this case, the panel has found all of the allegations proven and found that those proven facts amount to a relevant conviction.

The panel has made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that Mr Juan Torrecillas-Molina should be the subject of a prohibition order, with no provision for a review period.

In particular, the panel has found that Mr Torrecillas-Molina is in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions
 - showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others
 - not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach, and maintain high standards...
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The findings of misconduct are particularly serious as they include a teacher being convicted of several counts of making and/or possessing indecent images of children.

I have to determine whether the imposition of a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest. In assessing that for this case, I have considered the overall aim of a prohibition order which is to protect pupils and to maintain public confidence in the profession. I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order in this case would achieve that aim taking into account the impact that it will have on the individual teacher. I have also asked myself, whether a less intrusive measure, such as the published finding of a relevant conviction, would itself be sufficient to achieve the overall aim. I have to consider whether the consequences of such a publication are themselves sufficient. I have considered therefore whether or not prohibiting Mr Torrecillas-Molina, and the impact that will have on the teacher, is proportionate and in the public interest.

In this case, I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order would protect children and safeguard pupils. The panel makes this observation:

“In light of the panel’s findings against Mr Torrecillas-Molina which involved him receiving convictions and suspended prison sentences for making and/or possessing indecent photographs/pseudo photographs of children, there was a strong public interest consideration in the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils and the protection of other members of the public.”

A prohibition order would therefore prevent such a risk from being present in the future.

I have also taken into account the panel’s comments on insight and remorse, which it sets out as follows: “The panel noted that there was a lack of evidence of any insight and remorse on the part of Mr Torrecillas-Molina.” In my judgement, the lack of evidence of insight and remorse means that there is some risk of the repetition of this behaviour and this puts at risk the future wellbeing of pupils. I have therefore given this element considerable weight in reaching my decision.

I have gone on to consider the extent to which a prohibition order would maintain public confidence in the profession. The panel makes this comment:

“The panel also took account of the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. The panel considered that Mr Torrecillas-Molina’s behaviour in committing the offences could affect public confidence in the teaching profession, given the influence that teachers may have on pupils, parents and others in the community.”

I am particularly mindful of the finding of a teacher making and/or possessing illegal indecent images of children in this case and the very negative impact that such a finding is likely to have on the reputation of the profession.

I have had to consider that the public has a high expectation of professional standards of all teachers and that the public might regard a failure to impose a prohibition order as a failure to uphold those high standards. In weighing these considerations, I have had to

consider the matter from the point of view of an “ordinary intelligent and well-informed citizen.”

I have considered whether the publication of a finding of a relevant conviction, in the absence of a prohibition order, can itself be regarded by such a person as being a proportionate response to the misconduct that has been found proven in this case.

I have also considered the impact of a prohibition order on Mr Torrecillas-Molina himself. The panel comments as follows: “There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Torrecillas-Molina had demonstrated exceptionally high standards in his personal and professional conduct or had contributed significantly to the education sector.”

A prohibition order would prevent Mr Torrecillas-Molina from teaching. A prohibition order would also clearly deprive the public of his contribution to the profession for the period that it is in force.

In this case, I have placed considerable weight on the very serious nature of the misconduct found which resulted in a custodial sentence (albeit suspended). I have also noted the panel’s comments concerning the lack of evidence of insight or remorse.

I have given less weight in my consideration of sanction therefore, to the contribution that Mr Torrecillas-Molina has made to the profession. In my view, it is necessary to impose a prohibition order in order to maintain public confidence in the profession. A published decision, in light of the circumstances in this case, does not in my view satisfy the public interest requirement concerning public confidence in the profession.

For these reasons, I have concluded that a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest in order to achieve the intended aims of a prohibition order.

I have gone on to consider the matter of a review period. In this case, the panel has recommended that no provision should be made for a review period.

I have considered the panel’s concluding comments:

“The panel was not provided with any evidence of any mitigating circumstances. Further, the panel was not aware of the extent to which Mr Torrecillas-Molina had shown insight into his actions or remorse. As such, the panel found that a review period would not be appropriate and that the convictions and sentencing indicated a significant risk of repetition of Mr Torrecillas-Molina’s conduct.

The panel decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would not be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended without provisions for a review period.”

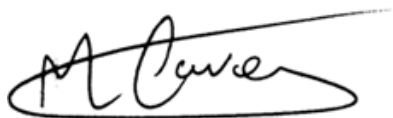
I have considered whether not allowing a review period reflects the seriousness of the findings and is a proportionate period to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. In this case, factors mean that allowing a review period is not sufficient to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. These elements are the very serious nature of the misconduct found, which in my judgment constitutes behaviour incompatible with working as a schoolteacher, and the lack of evidence of either insight or remorse.

I consider therefore that allowing for no review period is necessary to maintain public confidence and is proportionate and in the public interest.

This means that Mr Juan Torrecillas-Molina is prohibited from teaching indefinitely and cannot teach in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children's home in England. Furthermore, in view of the seriousness of the allegations found proved against him, I have decided that Mr Torrecillas-Molina shall not be entitled to apply for restoration of his eligibility to teach.

This order takes effect from the date on which it is served on the teacher.

Mr Torrecillas-Molina has a right of appeal to the High Court within 28 days from the date he is given notice of this order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cavey', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Decision maker: Marc Cavey

Date: 17 June 2025

This decision is taken by the decision maker named above on behalf of the Secretary of State.