



Teaching
Regulation
Agency

Mr William Nulty: Professional conduct panel outcome

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

September 2026

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

Teacher: Mr William Nulty

Teacher ref number: 1849723

Teacher date of birth: 14 June 1994

TRA reference: 21668

Date of determination: 11 September 2026

Former employer: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Bury

Introduction

A professional conduct panel (“the panel”) of the Teaching Regulation Agency (“the TRA”) convened on 11 September 2026 by way of a virtual hearing, to consider the case of Mr William Nulty.

The panel members were Mrs Bev Williams (teacher panellist – in the chair), Mr Anthony Bravo OBE (lay panellist) and Mr Clive Lawrence OBE (teacher panellist).

The legal adviser to the panel was Mrs Luisa Gibbons of Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP solicitors.

The presenting officer for the TRA was Miss Rachelle Harrison of Browne Jacobson LLP solicitors.

Mr Nulty 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 undated notice of proceedings.

It was alleged that Mr Nulty was convicted at Minshull Street Crown Court on 3 April 2025 of the following relevant offences:

1. Three counts of sexual assault of a female child under 13 on 18/08/2010 – 17/08/2012. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s7;
2. Two counts of cause/incite a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 18/08/10 – 17/08/12. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s8(1)
3. Three counts of assault female child under 13 – penetration of vagina/anus with part of body/object on 18/08/10 – 17/08/12. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s6
4. Assault female child under 13 – penetration of vagina/anus with part of body/object on 18/09/10 – 17/08/12 Sexual Offences Act 2003 s6.

In the absence of Mr Nulty, the allegations were not admitted.

It was also not admitted that Mr Nulty was guilty of having been convicted of a relevant offence.

Summary of evidence

Documents

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

Section 1: Notice of proceedings– pages 4 to 15

Section 2: Teaching Regulation Agency documents – pages 16 to 50

Section 5: Teacher documents – pages 51 to 53

The panel received a written application to proceed in the absence of Mr Nulty, together with a supporting bundle. The panel considered that it was fair to admit the documents in order to fairly determine the proceeding in absence application. The documents were relevant to the proceeding in absence application.

The panel members confirmed that they had read all of the documents within the bundle, in advance of the hearing and the additional document that the panel decided to admit.

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

Witnesses

No witnesses were called by the presenting officer.

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 Nulty was initially a supply class teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School (“the School”) from January 2020 until November 2020, and was thereafter employed by the School. On 17 July 2022, the police received a disclosure regarding Mr Nulty. On 19 July 2022, Mr Nulty attended the police station voluntarily. Mr Nulty was suspended from his role on 1 September 2022. Mr Nulty was dismissed from the School on 28 September 2022 whilst the police investigation remained ongoing.

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:

You were convicted at Minshull Street Crown Court on 3 April 2025 of the following offences:

- 1. Three counts of sexual assault of a female child under 13 on 18/08/2010 – 17/08/2012. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s7;**
- 2. Two counts of cause/incite a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 18/08/10 – 17/08/12. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s8(1)**
- 3. Three counts of assault female child under 13 – penetration of vagina/anus with part of body/object on 18/08/10 – 17/08/12. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s6**
- 4. Assault female child under 13 – penetration of vagina/anus with part of body/object on 18/09/10 – 17/08/12 Sexual Offences Act 2003 s6.**

The panel was provided with a certificate of conviction from Manchester Minshull Street. This confirmed that Mr Nulty was convicted of the offences set out in the allegations above on 3 April 2025. The panel accepted the certificate of conviction as conclusive proof of both the conviction and the facts necessarily implied by the conviction.

The certificate confirmed that Mr Nulty was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment suspended for two years. He was required to complete 300 hours of unpaid work and 20 days of rehabilitation activity.

No sentencing remarks were available. The only information available regarding the circumstances of the offences was contained in the referral form to the TRA. This stated that the police had been informed of a disclosure by a female who stated that about 10 to 11 years previously she had been sexually touched by [REDACTED], who was a teenager at the time. It also stated that at the initial LADO allegations meeting, it was referred to the alleged abuse having happened between 2010 to 2012. Although the panel did not hear oral evidence from the author of the TRA Referral form, the panel noted that the offences described correlated with the nature of the offences set out in the certificate of conviction, and the panel therefore considered the evidence to be admissible and reliable. The panel considered that it would have been disproportionate to have called the author of the TRA referral form to give evidence in circumstances where there was a certificate of conviction available. The panel placed some weight on the evidence since the author of the document would have had to be appraised of the developing situation following Mr Nulty having been informed by the School of the allegations, and the information imparted during the LADO Management meetings.

Although the certificate of conviction did not bear dates of the offences, the panel considered that it was more probable than not that the offences for which Mr Nulty was convicted were committed between 2010 and 2012 as set out in the TRA Referral Form. The panel noted that the allegations contained specific dates, and whilst the panel had no evidence upon which to ascertain whether that was, in fact, the specific time frames over which the offences were committed, it did not consider that these specific dates were pertinent to its findings of fact. The panel considered that it was sufficient that it had been proven that the offences were historical ones, having occurred between 2010 and 2012.

On 18 December 2025, Mr Nulty provided an email to the presenting officer stating that he had pleaded not guilty and had always maintained his innocence in relation to the accusations for which he was tried. He stated that he had been found guilty and was sentenced.

Based upon the certificate of conviction, the contents of which were undisputed by Mr Nulty, he having stated that he had been found guilty, and the TRA referral form the panel found the allegations proven.

Findings as to conviction of a relevant offence

Having found the allegations proved, the panel went on to consider whether the facts of those proved allegations amounted to a conviction, at any time, 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 Nulty in relation to the facts found proved, involved breaches of the Teachers' Standards. The panel noted that Mr Nulty was not a teacher at the time of the offences, so was not obliged to follow Teachers' Standards.

The panel noted that the individual's actions were relevant to teaching, working with children and/or working in an education setting, given that sexual offences were committed against a child under 13 and the certificate of conviction refers within the details of sentence to [REDACTED].

The panel noted that the behaviour involved in committing the offences would have had an impact on the safety and/or security of the victim who was a child at the time, and who would have been a pupil at the time, albeit not taught by Mr Nulty given this pre-dated his joining the profession.

The panel also took account of the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. The panel considered that Mr Nulty's behaviour in committing the offence 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 Nulty's behaviour ultimately led to a sentence of imprisonment, (albeit that it was 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 an offence involving sexual activity which the Advice states is likely to be considered a relevant offence.

The panel took into account that the offences were historical and occurred before Mr Nulty became a teacher. The panel also took into account that the referral stated that there had been "no issues about him at the school".

The panel placed little weight on the evidence of Mr Nulty's teaching experience being without any issue. In this case, the panel found that the seriousness of the offending behaviour that led to the conviction was relevant to Mr Nulty'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 maintenance of public confidence in the profession; and declaring and upholding proper standards of conduct.

There was a strong public interest consideration in respect of the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils, given the serious convictions for sexual assault of a child.

Similarly, the panel considered that public confidence in the profession could be seriously weakened if conduct such as that found against Mr Nulty were 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 Nulty 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 Nulty in the profession. Whilst no doubt had been cast on Mr Nulty's abilities as an educator, the panel considered that the adverse public interest considerations above outweighed any interest in retaining Mr Nulty in the profession, given the seriousness of his offences of sexually assaulting a child.

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. The panel considered that given the seriousness of the offences, the public would remain concerned regarding Mr Nulty working in the teaching profession even though the offences were committed whilst Mr Nulty was aged between 16 to 18.

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 Nulty.

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:

- 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;
- sexual misconduct, e.g. involving actions that were sexually motivated or of a sexual nature...

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 Nulty's actions were not deliberate. Sexual assaults of this nature could not have been committed by accident. Mr Nulty must have been aware that the victim was a child given that [REDACTED].

There was no evidence to suggest that Mr Nulty was acting under extreme duress, e.g. a physical threat or significant intimidation. The panel did note that the offences were committed when Mr Nulty was likely to have been less mature, when he was aged between 16 and 18.

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

Mr Nulty provided no statements attesting to his character or abilities as a teacher. The panel saw from the referral form that there had been "no issues about Mr Nulty at the school." The panel noted that the presenting officer had not drawn any previous orders regarding misconduct against Mr Nulty to the attention of the panel.

The only information the panel had regarding Mr Nulty's insight or remorse was a short email stating that he had always maintained his innocence. He accepted that the court had found him guilty. He also stated that he accepted that given the nature of the offences, he would not be allowed to teach again. He made no reference to any impact on the victim, and his comments referred only to the trauma that he has been trying to recover from and his wish for the matter to be resolved as quickly and privately as

possible so that he can “begin to move on from this life changing situation”. The panel concluded that Mr Nulty had not demonstrated insight as to the impact of his actions.

The panel had regard to these offences having been historic, committed when Mr Nulty was a teenager himself.

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 Nulty 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 Nulty, reflecting the seriousness of the sexual offences committed against a child. 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.

These include:

- serious sexual misconduct e.g. where the act was sexually motivated and resulted in, or had the potential to result in, harm to a person or persons, particularly where the individual has used their professional position to influence or exploit a person or persons;
- any sexual misconduct involving a child;

The panel noted that Mr Nulty was not in any professional position with respect to the child at the time of the offences. Whilst his behaviour could not be considered professional misconduct, they were criminal sexual offences committed against a child.

The Advice also indicates that there are certain other types of cases where it is likely that the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of a longer period before a review is considered appropriate.

None of the listed characteristics were engaged by the panel's findings.

The panel noted that the offences were historic, committed whilst Mr Nulty was a teenager himself and that there have been no issues whilst Mr Nulty has taught at the School. However, no remorse or insight has been expressed by Mr Nulty for the panel to be satisfied that the risk of repetition was low.

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 provision 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 William Nulty should be the subject of a prohibition order, with no provision for a review period.

In regard to whether Mr Nulty breached the Teacher Standards, the panel makes the following comment:

“The panel first considered whether the conduct of Mr Nulty in relation to the facts found proved, involved breaches of the Teachers’ Standards. The panel noted that Mr Nulty was not a teacher at the time of the offences, so was not obliged to follow Teachers’ Standards.

The panel noted that the individual's actions were relevant to teaching, working with children and/or working in an education setting, given that sexual offences were committed against a child under 13 and the certificate of conviction refers within the details of sentence to [REDACTED].”

The findings of misconduct are particularly serious as they include a conviction for the sexual assault of a child aged under 13.

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 Nulty, 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 offers this observation:

“The panel noted that the behaviour involved in committing the offences would have had an impact on the safety and/or security of the victim who was a child at the time, and who would have been a pupil at the time, albeit not taught by Mr Nulty given this pre-dated his joining the profession.”

I have also taken into account the panel’s comments on insight and remorse, which it sets out as follows:

“The only information the panel had regarding Mr Nulty’s insight or remorse was a short email stating that he had always maintained his innocence. He accepted that the court had found him guilty. He also stated that he accepted that given the nature of the offences, he would not be allowed to teach again. He made no reference to any impact on the victim, and his comments referred only to the trauma that he has been trying to recover from and his wish for the matter to be resolved as quickly and privately as possible so that he can “begin to move on from this life changing situation”. The panel concluded that Mr Nulty had not demonstrated insight as to the impact of his actions.”

The panel goes on to comment:

“The panel noted that the offences were historic, committed whilst Mr Nulty was a teenager himself and that there have been no issues whilst Mr Nulty has taught at the School. However, no remorse or insight has been expressed by Mr Nulty for the panel to be satisfied that the risk of repetition was low.”

Given the lack of evidence of Mr Nulty’s insight and remorse, I concur with the panel that there is some risk of the repetition of this behaviour. 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 comments:

“Similarly, the panel considered that public confidence in the profession could be seriously weakened if conduct such as that found against Mr Nulty were not treated with the utmost seriousness when regulating the conduct of the profession.”

I am particularly mindful of a teacher having been convicted for the sexual assault of a child and, notwithstanding the fact that the events occurred before he started to work as a teacher, the 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 Nulty himself. The panel notes the following:

“Mr Nulty provided no statements attesting to his character or abilities as a teacher. The panel saw from the referral form that there had been “no issues about Mr Nulty at the school.” The panel noted that the presenting officer had not drawn any previous orders regarding misconduct against Mr Nulty to the attention of the panel.”

A prohibition order would prevent Mr Nulty 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 panel’s findings.

I have also placed considerable weight on the lack of evidence of insight and remorse on Mr Nulty’s part, and the risk of repetition.

I have given less weight in my consideration of sanction therefore, to the contribution that Mr Nulty 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.

In doing so, it has made reference to the Advice as follows:

“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.

These include:

- serious sexual misconduct e.g. where the act was sexually motivated and resulted in, or had the potential to result in, harm to a person or persons, particularly where the individual has used their professional position to influence or exploit a person or persons;
- any sexual misconduct involving a child;

The panel noted that Mr Nulty was not in any professional position with respect to the child at the time of the offences. Whilst his behaviour could not be considered professional misconduct, they were criminal sexual offences committed against a child.”

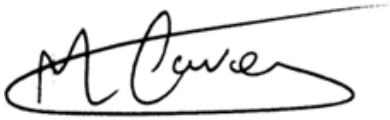
I have considered whether not allowing a review period reflects the seriousness of the findings and is a proportionate period to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. In this case, factors mean that allowing a review period would not be sufficient to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. These elements are the very serious misconduct found as well as the risk of repetition and future harm to pupils.

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 William Nulty 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 Nulty 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 Nulty 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 horizontal oval shape.

Decision maker: Marc Cavey

Date: 14 September 2026

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