



To: All Awarding Bodies Offering Vocational and Other Qualifications

05 June 2018

Dear Responsible Officer

Update on vocational and other qualification data collection

This letter updates you on our work to prepare for the collection of data on Vocational and Other Qualifications (VQs) in Wales. No immediate action is required.

You may be aware that work has been ongoing to transfer responsibility for the collection of VQ data for Wales from Ofqual to Qualifications Wales. We have been considering our approach and have made the following decisions regarding future collection of VQ data in Wales:

- We will collect data on the same basis as Ofqual. Therefore, we will require data on the number of full certifications awarded for all regulated VQs in Wales. Within these collections, certification numbers will be mandatory. The number of registrations per qualification will also be requested, however, this data will be requested on a voluntary basis in line with Ofqual requirements.
- We already hold a list within QiW of 'designated' and 'approved' qualifications which are offered by recognised awarding bodies in Wales and eligible for use on publicly funded courses for learners under the age of 19. Qualifications that we refer to as 'other regulated' are not eligible for public funding in Wales and are not listed in QiW. To allow us to collect data about them we will compile and maintain a list of 'other regulated' qualifications. A draft list will be sent to awarding bodies as part of our initial checking process. The list of 'other regulated' qualifications will not be displayed publicly on QiW.

The enclosed annex gives a definition of 'other regulated' and other terms linked to data collection in Wales.

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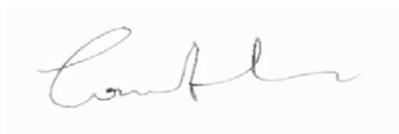
We have previously engaged with awarding bodies to help us plan and consider our requirements and we aim to work with a representative group of awarding bodies to develop templates and processes for data collection. We will be in contact with additional detail about the creation of this representative group.

We intend to complete a parallel collection with Ofqual in January 2019, which will enable us to test our systems and processes. On this occasion, awarding bodies will be required to submit data to both ourselves and Ofqual. We expect to begin full collection of regulated VQs in Wales in April 2019.

In the meantime, you should continue to submit data on entries and certificates of Welsh learners to Ofqual, who are collecting on our behalf.

We will be in contact in June to confirm details about the 'other regulated' qualifications that will be included on our data collection list and to provide a more detailed update on our proposed timeline for the transfer of responsibility for the collection of VQ data for Wales.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Anderson', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Tom Anderson

Head of Research

Annex – Definitions of terms linked to data collection in Wales

Vocational and Other qualifications are qualifications that are not GCSEs, AS levels, A levels, Advanced Extension Awards, Principal Learning and Project qualifications.

Approved qualifications are qualifications that have met our qualification-specific approval criteria.

Designated qualifications are qualifications that we have agreed as being eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning in Wales.

Both 'approved' and 'designated' qualifications are listed on our public QiW database.

Other Regulated qualifications are all other qualifications offered by recognised awarding bodies to learners in Wales that have not been opted out of our scope of recognition.

For the purpose of data collection, we define **Welsh learner** as learners entered by centres in Wales e.g. a centre that has a postcode, defined as residing in Wales by Ordnance Survey.