



All Responsible Officers

6 October 2020

Issued via Ofqual Portal and other relevant channels

Ref: Statement of Compliance 2020

Dear Responsible Officer,

[Condition B2](#) of the General Conditions of Recognition (Ofqual and CCEA Regulation) and the Standard Conditions of Recognition (Qualifications Wales) requires you, and the Chair of your Governing Body, to jointly submit an annual statement specifying whether or not your organisation is fully compliant with your Conditions of Recognition.

On 30 March 2020, we confirmed that as a result of the disruption caused by Covid-19, we would be [suspending the requirement for you to submit your full 2020 Statement of Compliance \(SoC\) until further notice](#).

We are now lifting this suspension.

The 2020 SoC window will be open from **19 October to 8 January 2021**. However, this year's SoC will look and feel different to previous years. We are very mindful of the burden on you in completing the SoC at this time, so we have reduced its scope by requiring you to only submit declarations against a limited number of Conditions. You will also have the option of declaring non-compliance (current or future) against any other Conditions you may have already identified through your internal assurance processes.

In addition, we have adopted a 3-country approach for the SoC this year with Qualifications Wales and CCEA Regulation. You will need to complete just one statement this year (in 2 parts) with all questions agreed by all 3 regulators, where relevant. Your submission will be shared with the regulators that you are accountable to.

We have discussed the changes with the Federation of Awarding Bodies and their Regulatory Impact Group and highlighted the changes in an AO webinar in September.

Key changes

The key changes are confirmed as follows:

1. The scope of the SoC declaration is reduced significantly this year, recognising the burden Covid 19 is placing on all awarding organisations. We will not be asking for you to declare compliance against all of the General Conditions of Recognitions (and Standard

Conditions of Recognition for AOs regulated by Qualifications Wales) now or in the future, as required by Condition B2.

2. Instead, we will be asking for declarations against Conditions related to specific areas of activity in 2 parts:

Part 1.

- **Organisational stability** (there will be fewer questions for you to answer if you have already completed a survey from us earlier this year): Condition A5.4
- We are aware that many of you will be making important business decisions in light of the ending of the Job Retention Scheme at the end of October and the new Emergency Jobs Scheme thereafter. Given the fast-moving environment, we are keen to gain a better understanding of the impact this will have on your organisation and the market as a whole.

Part 2.

- **Centre Assessment Standard Scrutiny (CASS)**: Condition H2
- **EPA-related activities** (where applicable): Conditions A5.1, A5.2, H1.1 and EPA 1.1.
- You will also have the option of declaring current or future non-compliance against any other Conditions.

3. We will issue you with a survey link for each of the 2 parts of the SoC. Please note the deadlines:

- the first link will be on **organisational stability** and will have a deadline date of **1 December 2020**.
- the second link will be for **CASS and EPA** related activities which must be returned by **8 January 2020**.
- You will be able to complete both parts of the SoC earlier than the 1 December, but you must ensure we have your responses to organisational stability back by 1 December and CASS/EPA by 8 January.

4. We will be using an online survey platform for you to submit your SoC this year, given the changes we have made to the content and to streamline the process across the regulators.

5. We will provide a copy of the survey in Microsoft Word for you to use in your preparations, however, we will only accept your submission via the online survey, not as a completed word document.

Overall scrutiny and sign off

For this year only, we will not require you to submit your SoC with a separate signature by your Chair. However, you will still be expected to comply with the requirements of Condition B2.4. Before submitting your SoC, your governing body will need to agree to the submission you are

making. You must declare that your statement is accurate and has been approved by you, as Responsible Officer, and the Chair of your Governing Body.

You should be prepared to provide evidence of the scrutiny of your Governing Body if asked. You will be asked to commit to providing this before commencing the survey.

Next steps

We have made the changes outlined above because of the exceptional impact of the Covid 19 pandemic this year on the AOs we regulate.

We will review our approach and use that to inform how we might implement the Statement of Compliance in future years.

If you have any questions about the process, please do contact us by replying to this message directly in the Portal. We will share any questions with QW and CCEA Regulation.

Yours sincerely,



Yun Ding

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