



Local Government Transformation and Partnerships Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

CC: Kevin Griffiths, Head, Local Government Partnerships

23/09/2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

Response to Welsh Government consultation: The community council clerk qualifications regulations

Qualifications Wales is the independent regulator of qualifications in Wales. Our statutory aims are ensuring that qualifications and the qualification system meet the reasonable needs of learners and command public confidence. To achieve our aims, we have a range of legal powers and responsibilities set out in the Qualifications Wales Act (2015).

We regulate awarding bodies that develop, deliver and award qualifications to learners in Wales and are recognised by us. Awarding bodies must apply to us for recognition and go through a rigorous process before we grant recognition. Once recognised, awarding bodies must comply on an ongoing basis with their conditions of recognition and we monitor their compliance in accordance with our regulatory framework and policies. Recognised awarding bodies can specify which of their qualifications they wish to include within their scope of recognition. We regulate GCSEs, A levels and vocational qualifications including work-based training and continuing professional development qualifications.

The consultation proposes four qualifications to name in Regulations: one or more of which community council clerks will need to have as part of the conditions a community council must satisfy to gain 'general power of competence'.

Qualifications Wales
Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane
Imperial Park,
Newport
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222



www.qualificationswales.org

Cymwysterau Cymru
Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn
Parc Imperial,
Casnewydd
NP10 8AR
☎ 01633 373 222

Three of the four qualifications are validated or awarded by Higher Education Institutions and are within HEFCW and QAA's remit. The fourth named qualification - Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) - is offered by Ascentis who are recognised and regulated by us.

While Ascentis is regulated by us, they have excluded CiLCA from their scope of recognition and therefore we do not regulate this particular qualification. As such, we are not able to provide assurance of the quality or appropriateness of the qualification. In the same way, it is not within our remit to monitor this qualification nor deal with any complaints should any arise in future. We also cannot play a role in ensuring that the qualification is available through the medium of Welsh, or that it has sufficient and appropriate Wales-specific content.

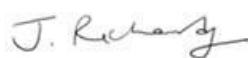
We note that the CiLCA training programme is well established and the consultation approach to mandate it was due to the support provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks. However, we thought it prudent to bring to your attention that the qualification is not regulated and the implications of this.

As well as the points set out above, there is also a financial implication to draw your attention to. Programmes of learning that lead to regulated qualifications are eligible for public funding, if the qualification is regulated by us and falls within one of two categories, namely Approved or Designated. However, the training programme preparing learners for CiLCA will not be able to draw down such funding, because it is not regulated by us and therefore neither Approved nor Designated.

As a more general comment, naming specific qualifications in Regulations can be problematic, requiring new Regulations to be drafted should there be any changes to the qualification titles, the providers, or if the qualifications cease / are withdrawn.

At present there is a single training provider delivering the CiLCA programme and therefore there is also a risk should the provider for any reason be unable to operate.

If we can be of any further assistance or if you'd like to discuss any of the issues we have raised further, please get in touch by emailing policy@qualificationswales.org



Jo Richards

Executive Director, Regulation.