



26 June 2020

Dear colleague

Awarding results in vocational qualifications in summer 2020

I would like to thank you for playing your role in supporting learners to be awarded vocational qualifications this summer. As a result of your hard work, the majority of learners will be able to progress in their studies or employment with a calculated result or having taken an adapted assessment. As centres gradually reopen, delayed assessments are also starting to take place where it is safe to do so.

Our focus for this summer has been to ensure that:

- as many learners expecting to receive qualification results are able to do so where possible, so they can progress to the next stages of their lives without further disruption;
- results are sufficiently valid and reliable so they will be as valued as those of any other year; and
- the arrangements are as fair as possible.

We recognise that this summer's arrangements bring significant challenges, particularly for centres that use a large number of different awarding bodies. We have worked closely with the regulators in England (Ofqual) and Northern Ireland (CCEA Regulation) to ensure as much consistency between awarding bodies as possible, but there will always be differences, given the diversity of qualifications available. We also understand that it can be frustrating when changes are made to the initial mitigation approach for a qualification or that requirements for adapted assessments are revised. Any recent changes in approach by awarding bodies will be in response to feedback from centres or industry bodies, or to seek greater consistency with other similar qualifications. If you are unclear about any requirements or guidance, I would encourage you to continue to contact the awarding body in question as soon as possible.

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You can download the full list of qualifications and the main approach for each from our [website](#). Ofqual has also created an [interactive tool](#) for learners and centres to use that includes all the qualifications available in Wales.

We issued a [statement](#) on arrangements for all Health and Social Care and Childcare qualifications in Wales, including the new Wales-only qualifications on 24 April 2020 and a list of these qualifications can be found on our website. Working closely with the awarding bodies to ensure a common approach, we were able to announce that [Essential Skills Wales](#) learners due to complete their qualification before the end of July will receive a calculated result this year.

We know that these challenges will continue well beyond the summer. So, as well as overseeing the implementation of this summer's extraordinary arrangements for awarding qualifications, our attention has already turned to consider what arrangements we need to put in place from September 2020 onwards.

The arrangements we have put in place for adapted assessments this summer will remain in place for as long as we believe they are necessary. Although some awarding bodies have placed deadlines on completion of adapted assessments for those learners needing their results in August 2020, those adaptations can remain in place beyond those dates to allow as many learners as possible to complete their qualifications.

We are also looking at what further adaptations may be necessary across the full range of vocational qualifications in response to the continued impact of the pandemic. We are keen to continue to engage across the sector and take on board feedback as we develop our approach. We will keep you informed of our decisions and will update our website with key developments.

Our overarching aim is to ensure exams and assessments are as fair as possible and take into account any public health requirements and the well-being of learners. I thank you for your support, professionalism and dedication over the last few months and continued support into the future.

Yours faithfully



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive