



22 February 2024

Dear colleague,

There are several updates that we at Qualifications Wales would like to share with you and your colleagues.

Proposed approach to designating 14-16 qualifications

This week we [published a consultation](#) on our proposed approach to designating 14-16 qualifications.

We decide which qualifications are eligible for use on publicly-funded courses of education or training for learners under the age of 19 in two ways. Firstly, by approving qualifications which have been developed specifically to meet the needs of learners in Wales, and secondly by allowing qualifications typically developed for learners elsewhere to be designated for use in Wales. We list all approved and designated qualifications on our [Qualifications in Wales \(QiW\) database](#).

As new approved [National Qualifications](#) are taught from 2025, they will replace the majority of other publicly funded pre-16 qualifications currently available. We will therefore only designate qualifications for 14-16-year-olds in limited exceptional circumstances.

Our consultation includes a question that will be of particular interest to you and your team, as it asks for examples of qualifications that you consider essential to learners which do not meet our [guiding principles](#) and therefore will not form part of the new approved National 14-16 Qualifications. We propose that such qualifications could only be designated as eligible for public funding if they met our proposed exemption criteria.

Have your say and help inform our decisions by completing the consultation survey [here](#). The consultation will close on Tuesday 14 May. If you have any questions, contact policy@qualifications.wales.

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Information and support are available for your learners

As the spring term continues, learners will carry on studying for their qualifications during the lead-up to summer exams and assessments. We've published an [updated learner guide](#), containing a range of information and helpful links where learners can access support and guidance, so please [share this](#) with your young people.

National 14-16 Qualifications

We hope you've had opportunity to explore our new [National 14-16 Qualifications hub](#), which contains important information and a range of interactive resources, designed to help you and your staff understand the full range of National 14-16 Qualifications that will be made available between 2025-27.

This is an interactive forum, where you can view video updates and webinar recordings, access key documents and ask our reform team questions. We encourage you to make full use of this space and help spread the message about this new resource.

Feel free to share this update more widely within your centre. If your leaders and teams would like to receive our latest news, publications and surveys, they can sign up for our monthly newsletter by filling in the form at the bottom of our [website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Philip Blaker,
Chief Executive