



1 December 2023

Dear Colleagues

Update on UK Government defunding of level 3 qualifications in England

I wrote to you in May to provide an update on the UK Government's defunding of level 3 qualifications in England and what we have done to mitigate the potential impact on learners and providers in Wales. This letter provides a list of the qualifications affected and outlines the work that we have undertaken to secure the post-16 qualifications offer in Wales.

In May and October 2023 the UK Government's Department for Education (DfE) published their finalised lists of qualifications that overlap with [waves 1 and 2](#) and [wave 3](#) of T Levels and will be defunded in England from August 2024 and 2025. We are currently awaiting the DfE announcement of which qualifications overlap with wave 4 of T Levels. We expect this list to be published by the end of 2023.

The defunding of qualifications being undertaken by the DfE relates to level 3 qualifications that will be defunded for 16–19-year-olds in England only. **Therefore, it does not mean that these qualifications will be defunded, or cease to be available, in Wales.**

Nevertheless, I recognise that you will be concerned about the potential impact of these policy and funding changes on learners in Wales, and I would like to reassure you of the steps that we have taken, and will continue to take, to ensure that an appropriate range of qualifications is available to Welsh learners.

The qualifications impacted by the defunding in England (in waves 1–3 of T Levels) that are eligible for public funding in Wales are listed in Appendix 1. We have undertaken a detailed analysis of the information included in the DfE lists to identify the likely impact on learners and learning providers in Wales. The list includes 62 qualifications that are eligible for public funding in Wales which represents less than 7% of designated vocational qualifications available at level 3 in Wales.

Qualifications Wales

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Imperial Park,
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Cymwysterau Cymru

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn
Parc Imperial,
Casnewydd
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In 2022, 1,870 certificates were awarded to learners in Wales for the 62 qualifications - less than 3% of all the certificates awarded for level 3 vocational qualifications in Wales (66,585). Our analysis also shows that, as a result of our engagement with awarding bodies, the typical final start dates for most of the affected qualifications have been extended until 2025 or 2026 and/or there are alternative qualifications available in Wales that are not being defunded in England.

When I wrote to you in May I outlined the work that we have done over recent years to mitigate the risks posed by the changes to qualifications policy happening in England. This work includes our series of sector reviews and our reform programmes which have led to the commissioning of new Made for Wales qualifications in Health and Social Care and Childcare (HSC), and Construction and the Built Environment (CBE). We are also working with awarding bodies to identify suitable routes to reform post-16 Travel and Tourism and Hospitality and Catering qualifications.

In sectors where we have commissioned new qualifications for Wales (such as HSC and CBE) the risk posed by the changes in England has been removed but this is not the case for every sector. In other sectors we have been managing the risks by engaging with the awarding bodies to develop sustainable options for the future. We continue to hold regular discussions with awarding bodies, as well as specific discussions with awarding bodies as part of our ongoing sector reviews and reform programmes.

These discussions have been reassuringly positive and awarding bodies have generally confirmed their desire to remain active in Wales. In several cases we have been reassured by awarding bodies that key qualifications remain viable even if they can no longer be offered on publicly funded 16-19 programmes in England. We have also been reassured by the readiness of awarding bodies to extend the typical Designation final start dates of qualifications and their desire to replace qualifications with suitable alternatives for Wales. We will continue to work with awarding bodies to extend the typical Designation final start dates of qualifications that are at risk of being defunded in England to ensure that that learners in Wales are not disadvantaged by policy changes happening in England.

I will write to you again when the wave 4 defunding list is published by the DfE. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any of the information in this letter, our Qualifications Policy and Reform Team would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss any particular concerns. You can contact them at enquiries@qualifications.wales.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker

Chief Executive

Appendix 1

SSA 1: Health, public services and care			
QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/4351/6	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing	31/08/2026	An alternative qualification is available (Agored Cymru Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing (Wales) C00/4396/6) which has a typical Designation final start date of December 2026 and is not affected by the defunding in England.
SSA 4: Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies			
QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/0718/0	EAL Level 3 Certificate in Engineering Technologies	31/12/2026	EAL has extended the typical final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us.
C00/0718/3	EAL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering Technologies	31/12/2026	
C00/0717/8	EAL Level 3 Diploma in Engineering Technologies	31/12/2026	EAL has indicated that the typical Designation final start date of the Level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Engineering Technology (C00/0279/8) will be extended
C00/0279/7	EAL Level 3 Diploma in Engineering Technology	31/12/2026	

C00/0279/8	EAL Level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Engineering Technology	31/12/2024	once EAL has completed their review of the qualification.
C00/0717/9	EAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering Technologies	31/12/2026	
C00/1171/3	EAL Level 3 Technical Extended Diploma in Engineering Technologies	31/12/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Aeronautical Engineering			Pearson has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us.
C00/0783/0	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/5	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Mechanical Engineering			We will continue to engage with representatives at Pearson to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond which could include further extending the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications, adapting qualifications to meet the needs of Wales, adopting qualifications used elsewhere, or developing new qualifications for Wales.
C00/0783/4	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/9	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Engineering			
C00/0775/6	Foundation Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/2	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/7	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Electrical and Electronic Engineering			
C00/0783/1	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/6	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Manufacturing Engineering			
C00/0783/3	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/0783/8	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge)			
C00/4095/2	Foundation Award	31/08/2026	

C00/2955/5	Award	31/08/2026	
C00/2955/3	Certificate	31/08/2026	
C00/2955/6	Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/2955/8	Extended Diploma	31/08/2026	
C00/1243/6	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Boatbuilding (Advanced)	31/08/2026	<p>City & Guilds has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with representatives at City & Guilds to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond which could include further extending the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications, adapting qualifications to meet the needs of Wales, adopting qualifications used elsewhere, or developing new qualifications for Wales.</p>
C00/3894/6	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Marine Engineering (Advanced)	31/08/2026	
C00/0338/4	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Engineering	31/08/2026	
C00/4588/0	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles	31/08/2026	
C00/4647/6	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Component Removal and Replacement in Electric and Hybrid Vehicles	31/08/2026	
C00/4648/0	City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Diagnosis, Repair and Recalibration of Advanced Driver Assist Systems	31/08/2026	
C00/4159/0	SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Certificate in Fabrication and Welding Techniques and Skills	31/08/2025	
C00/4158/7	SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Diploma in Fabrication and Welding Techniques and Skills	31/08/2025	<p>There is very low take up of these qualifications and they have a typical Designation final start date of August 2025. We will continue to engage with SEG to discuss the options for 2025 and beyond.</p>
C00/4159/6	SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Diploma in Welding Techniques and Skills	31/08/2025	

SSA 5: Construction, planning and the built environment			
QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/1185/0	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Civil Engineering	31/08/2026	Pearson has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us. We will continue to engage with representatives at Pearson to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond which could include further extending the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications, adapting qualifications to meet the needs of Wales, adopting qualifications used elsewhere, or developing new qualifications for Wales.
C00/1184/9	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Civil Engineering	31/08/2026	
C00/1228/7	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment	31/08/2026	
C00/1228/8	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment	31/08/2026	
C00/1228/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment	31/08/2026	
C00/1182/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Building Services Engineering	31/08/2026	
C00/1182/5	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Building Services Engineering	31/08/2026	
C00/0619/1	Pearson Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Construction Contracting Operations	31/01/2026	
C00/4758/1	EAL Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Providing Electronic Fire and Security Systems	31/08/2025	EAL has indicated that the typical Designation final start date for this qualification will be extended beyond 2025.
C00/1240/2	City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction)	31/08/2026	These qualifications are currently designated on QiW for the specific purpose of being used

C00/4144/7	City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Trowel Occupations (Construction)	31/08/2026	on 'NVQs in the Workplace' programmes, for 18+ learners, only. The new Made-for-Wales City & Guilds Construction (Level 3) suite of qualifications offer pathways covered by these qualifications and can also be used on 'NVQs in the Workplace' programmes.
C00/4507/4	City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Decorative Finishing - Painting and Decorating (Construction)	31/12/2024	
C00/0566/0	NOCN_Cskills Awards Level 3 Diploma in Plastering (Construction)	31/05/2025	<p>NOCN has informed us that they intend to surrender their recognition in Wales from summer 2025.</p> <p>This qualification is currently designated on QiW for the specific purpose of being used on 'NVQs in the Workplace' programmes, for 18+ learners, only. The new Made-for-Wales City & Guilds Construction (Level 3) suite of qualifications offer pathways covered by this qualification and can be used on 'NVQs in the Workplace' programmes.</p>
SSA 6: Information and communication technology			
QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/0259/2	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles	31/12/2024	Pearson has extended these qualifications until 2024 and we will continue to engage with Pearson to encourage them to further extend the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications and/or introduce new replacement qualifications for Wales.
C00/0259/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles	31/12/2024	

C00/0263/3	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Professional Competence for IT and Telecoms Professionals	31/12/2024	Alternative ICT Systems and Principles qualifications are offered by City & Guilds and have typical final start dates of August 2026 (listed below).
C00/0106/4	City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles	31/08/2026	City & Guilds has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us. These ICT qualifications are very similar to the ICT qualifications offered by Pearson (listed above) that have a typical final start date of December 2024.
C00/0221/7	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles for IT Professionals	31/08/2026	
C00/0286/4	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in ICT Systems Support	31/08/2026	
C00/0295/8	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence	31/08/2026	
C00/0106/8	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma for IT Users (ITQ)	31/08/2026	

SSA 13: Education and training

QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/0288/5	City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools	31/08/2026	City & Guilds has extended the typical Designation final start date of this qualification following discussions with us. We will continue to engage with representatives at City & Guilds to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond.

C00/0355/3	Pearson Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools	30/11/2024	<p>Pearson has indicated that this qualification will be withdrawn due to the low number of learners studying the qualification.</p> <p>The City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools (C00/0288/5) is a direct alternative and NCFE offers similar Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning qualifications (listed below).</p>
C00/1215/5	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning	31/07/2025	<p>NCFE has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with representatives at NCFE to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond.</p>
C00/1215/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning	31/07/2025	
C00/1215/7	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning	31/07/2025	

SSA 15: Business, Administration and Law

QW Designation number	Qualification Title	Typical Designation final start date	Comments
C00/0094/9	OCR Level 3 Diploma in Administration (Business Professional)	31/12/2023	<p>OCR has indicated that this qualification will be withdrawn.</p> <p>Alternative qualifications are available such as the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Business Administration (C00/0632/9), City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Business Administration (C00/0640/4), and the Agored Cymru Level 3 Diploma in Business Administration (C00/1231/2).</p>

C00/0595/6	ACCA Diploma in Financial and Management Accounting (RQF Level 3)	31/08/2024	This qualification has no certifications over the last 3 years, but we will engage with ACCA to seek an extension to the qualification if there is demand for the qualification.
C00/4318/8	AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting	31/01/2027	The qualification is offered worldwide, and AAT has reassured us that this qualification is offered in other countries, other than England, and will continue to be offered in Wales.