



30 January 2024

Dear Colleagues

UK Government announcement on Wave 4 defunding of level 3 qualifications in England

I [wrote](#) to you in December explaining the potential impact on Wales of the defunding of level 3 qualifications in England being undertaken by the UK Government's Department for Education (DfE). I explained the steps that we have taken, and will continue to take, to ensure that an appropriate range of qualifications is available to Welsh learners. I also promised to write to you when the wave 4 defunding list is published by the DfE.

The DfE has today published a [provisional list](#) of qualifications that overlap with wave 4 of T Levels and will be defunded in England from August 2025. Today's DfE announcement 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 today's announcement, and I would like to reassure you of our continued work to ensure that learners in Wales are not disadvantaged by the changes to qualifications policy in England.

The qualifications impacted by the wave 4 defunding in England 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 list to identify the likely impact on learners and learning providers in Wales.

Qualifications Wales

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Cymwysterau Cymru

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The list includes 38 qualifications that are eligible for public funding in Wales. Our analysis shows that, as a result of our engagement with awarding bodies, the typical Designation final start dates for most of the affected qualifications have been extended until 2026 and/or there are alternative qualifications available in Wales that are not being defunded in England.

Extension of a qualification to 2026 does not mean that it will be withdrawn or cease to be available in Wales from 2026. Rather, the typical Designation final start date of qualifications is the point when we would expect awarding bodies to review, update and/or replace the qualifications with newer alternatives. We are actively working with awarding bodies to discuss the options for 2026 and beyond which could include further extending the typical Designation final start dates of qualifications, adapting qualifications to meet the needs of Wales, adopting qualifications used elsewhere, or developing new qualifications for Wales.

We are confident about the steps we are taking and will continue to communicate our progress to you.

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 3: Agriculture, horticulture and animal care | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|----|--|
| QiW Designation Number | Qualification Title | Typical Designation final start date | Certificates awarded 2021 2022 | | Comments |
| C00/0109/7 | City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Agriculture | 31/08/2026 | 13 | 4 | <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> |
| C00/0110/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Horticulture | 31/08/2026 | 13 | 14 | |
| C00/1172/2 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Agriculture (540) | 31/08/2026 | 21 | 19 | |
| C00/1172/4 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Agriculture (1080) | 31/08/2026 | 15 | 22 | |
| C00/1173/5 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Land-based Engineering (1080) | 31/08/2026 | 11 | 26 | |
| C00/1172/5 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Certificate in Animal Management | 31/08/2026 | 30 | 23 | |
| C00/1173/2 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Animal Management (540) | 31/08/2026 | 90 | 80 | |

SSA 3: Agriculture, horticulture and animal care

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|------------|--|------------|----|----|--|
| C00/1187/2 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (1080) | 31/08/2026 | 83 | 65 | |
| C00/1187/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Animal Management (720) | 31/08/2026 | 20 | 22 | |
| C00/1232/5 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Floristry (540) | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 10 | |
| C00/0851/9 | City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Land-based Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 3 | |
| C00/0285/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Land-based Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 1 | |
| C00/1233/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 90-Credit Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 4 | |
| C00/1245/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Work-based Trees and Timber | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 1 | |
| C00/1232/8 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture (1080) | 31/08/2026 | 5 | 1 | |
| C00/0495/3 | City & Guilds Level 3 90-Credit Diploma in Land-based Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 7 | |
| C00/1233/3 | City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Forestry and Arboriculture | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/0852/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Land-based Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |

SSA 3: Agriculture, horticulture and animal care

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|------------|--|------------|----|----|--|
| C00/1188/0 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in Horticulture (1080) | 31/03/2024 | 0 | 0 | These qualifications have not been certificated for the past two years. We will work with City & Guilds to extend the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications if there is demand from centres. |
| C00/1187/8 | City & Guilds Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Horticulture (540) | 31/03/2024 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/3199/9 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Animal Management | 31/08/2026 | 49 | 35 | Pearson has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us. |
| C00/0782/6 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Animal Management | 31/08/2026 | 69 | 1 | 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. |
| C00/0782/4 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Animal Management | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/0782/5 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Animal Management | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/0233/9 | SEG Awards Level 3 Certificate in Practical Animal Care Skills | 30/09/2024 | 0 | 0 | This qualification has not been certificated for the past two years. We will work with SEG Awards to extend the typical Designation final start date of this qualification if there is demand from centres. |

SSA 9: Arts, media and publishing

| QiW Designation Number | Qualification Title | Typical Designation final start date | Certificates awarded | | Comments |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------|--|
| | | | 2021 | 2022 | |
| C00/0248/1 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Music Technology (QCF) | 31/08/2024 | 1 | 0 | We will discuss with Pearson whether they intend to extend the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications. |
| C00/0248/4 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Music Technology (QCF) | 31/08/2024 | 20 | 3 | Pearson has an alternative qualification available (BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Music Production - C00/2961/2) which has a typical Designation final start date of 31/12/2026. |
| C00/2961/2 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Music Production | 31/12/2026 | 0 | 13 | Pearson has extended the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications following discussions with us. |
| C00/3941/5 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Media Practice | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 11 | 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. |
| C00/3942/0 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Production Arts Practice | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 3 | |
| C00/3941/4 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National 540 Diploma in Creative Media Practice | 31/08/2026 | 20 | 0 | |

SSA 9: Arts, media and publishing

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|------------|---|------------|---|---|---|
| C00/2962/7 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Digital Film and Video Production | 30/11/2025 | 3 | 0 | <p>This qualification was not certificated in 2022. We will discuss with Pearson whether they intend to extend the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications.</p> <p>An alternative qualification is available (UAL Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production and Technology C00/1222/6) which has a typical Designation final start date of 31/08/28.</p> |
| C00/0248/5 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production (QCF) | 31/08/2024 | 0 | 0 | <p>These qualifications have not been certificated over the past two years. We will discuss with Pearson whether they intend to extend the typical Designation final start dates of these qualifications.</p> <p>Alternative qualifications are available from UAL with typical Designation final start dates of 31/08/2028:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C00/1222/6 UAL Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media Production & Technology • C00/1222/7 UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media Production & Technology • C00/1221/6 UAL Level 3 Diploma in Music Performance & Production • C00/1219/0 UAL Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music Performance & Production |
| C00/0782/1 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Music Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/0782/2 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Music Technology | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/0776/3 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Creative Digital Media Production | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/1145/0 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Film and Television Production | 31/08/2026 | 0 | 0 | |
| C00/2961/3 | Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sound Engineering | 31/12/2026 | 0 | 0 | |