



21/08/2023

Dear Responsible Officer

Qualifications to support Curriculum for Wales

We are writing to all awarding bodies currently offering regulated qualifications in Wales to confirm if they want to be directly involved in the creation of a new range of Made-for-Wales qualifications for learners aged 14-16 that will sit alongside the GCSE offer.

From 2027, these qualifications will be the only publicly funded 14-16 qualifications available in Wales. Therefore, it is important that awarding bodies have a say in how we shape the design requirements for these new Made-for-Wales qualifications. This is your opportunity to play an active part in these reforms.

Below, we say more about our plans and explain what committing to be involved will mean for you. If you want to be involved, please respond by the **11 September** to Heidi.Mills@qualifications.wales to confirm your interest, or to arrange a meeting to discuss the work further.

We have recently concluded a public consultation on proposals for the following range of Made-for-Wales 14-16 qualifications:

- **Skills Suite** consisting of a standalone **Integral Skills Project** qualification and broad, unit-based qualifications in **Skills for Life** and **Skills for Work**, spanning Entry Level to Level 2.
- **Pre-vocational qualifications** in a broad range of occupational areas, spanning Entry level to Level 2.
- **Foundation qualifications** covering the Curriculum for Wales' areas of learning and experience and spanning Entry Level and Level 1, to supplement the GCSE offer.

Full details of the proposals we consulted on can be found [on our website](#).

We are currently analysing the consultation responses. We will publish our findings and decisions on which qualifications to take forward in early 2024.

Now, we are inviting awarding bodies to work with us over the next 18 months to co-create the design requirements for these new qualifications.

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You may only be interested in offering qualifications in one of the three qualification areas listed above, or only in a subset of qualifications within a particular area. We aim to plan and organise the work to focus your involvement as far as possible on those qualifications in which you are most interested.

Annex A sets out the range of qualifications that are likely to be included within each area (subject to the outcomes of the consultation process). When replying, please indicate which qualifications you are interested in working on with us.

The table below outlines the main phases of activity between now and September 2027, when these new qualifications will be introduced for first teaching.

Activities	Date
Qualifications Wales co-create the qualification design requirements with input from awarding bodies, teachers and other key stakeholders.	Autumn 2023 - end of 2024
Awarding bodies submit qualification specifications and sample assessment materials for approval	2025/2026 academic year
Specifications and sample assessment materials approved and published by awarding bodies	Summer 2026
First teaching of new qualifications	September 2027

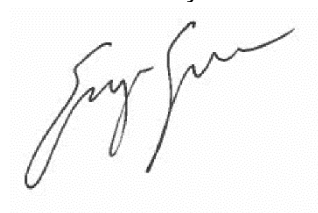
We will require all new Made-for-Wales qualifications to be offered bilingually in Welsh and English.

At this stage, we expect to take an open-market approach to securing the availability of these new qualifications. That is, we expect awarding bodies will choose to develop qualifications to meet our approval criteria without the need for us to use our powers to commission new qualifications, or to restrict access to the qualifications market.

To maintain a stable and reliable qualifications offer, we may decide to require awarding bodies wishing to offer certain qualifications to commit to offering others alongside them, and to commit to offering qualifications for a defined period of time. We will explore these options as part of the co-creation work over the coming months.

We hope that you will be interested in being part of the exciting qualification reform in Wales and look forward from hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely



Emyr George
Director Qualification Policy and Reform

Annex A - Indicative Range of qualifications

Skills Suite Qualifications

Subject	Level	Yes/No
Integral Skills Project qualification	Entry Level – Level 2	
A Nested suite of Skills for Life and Skills for Work Qualifications	Entry Level – Level 2	

Foundation qualifications

Subject	Level	Yes/No
Maths and Numeracy	Entry Level – Level 1	
Humanities	Entry Level – Level 1	
Religion, Values and Ethics	Entry Level – Level 2	
International Languages	Entry Level – Level 2	
English in English Medium Settings	Entry Level – Level 1	
Welsh in English Medium Settings	Entry Level – Level 1	
Welsh in Welsh Medium Settings	Entry Level – Level 1	
English as an Additional Language	Entry Level – Level 1	
Welsh as an Additional Language	Entry Level – Level 1	
Expressive Arts	Entry Level – Level 1	
Science	Entry Level – Level 1	
Digital Technology	Entry Level – Level 1	
Design Technology	Entry Level – Level 1	

Pre-vocational Qualifications

Subject	Level	Yes/No
Public Services	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Health and Social Care & Childcare	Entry/Level 1 (Level 1/Level 2 tbc)	
Engineering	Entry/Level 1 (Level 1/Level 2 tbc)	
Built Environment	Entry/Level 1 (Level 1/Level 2 tbc)	
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Hospitality & Catering	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Sport, Leisure & Recreation	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Travel & Tourism	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Agriculture, Horticulture & Forestry	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Animal Care	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Environmental Conservation	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Hair & Beauty	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Creative and Media Production & Technology	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Business, Accounting & Finance	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Retail & Customer Service	Entry/Level 1 and Level 1/Level 2	
Performing Arts	Level 1/Level 2	