



# Qualifications Wales Update



# Principal Aims – as set out in Qualifications Wales Act (2015)

- To ensure that qualifications and the qualification system in Wales are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales.
- To promote public confidence in qualifications and the qualification system in Wales.

# Key features of the regulatory toolkit

- Recognition of awarding bodies – criteria for, and conditions of recognition
- Approval and designation of qualifications – criteria for approval, conditions of approval, criteria for designation
- Option to restrict some priority qualifications – limiting named qualifications to a single version through a competitive process
- Enforcement of conditions, withdrawal of recognition or approval.



## Qualifications Wales and the qualifications it regulates



# Regulatory strategy and policy update

## Upcoming consultations

- Consultation policy
- Restricted priority qualifications policy

## Regulatory strategy

- Review of current regulatory approach
- Evidence-based
- Consultation with ABs

# Recognition and approvals

## Recognition

- 126 awarding bodies recognised in Wales
- Organisations wishing to become Qualifications Wales recognised Awarding Bodies apply directly to Qualifications Wales

## Approvals

- Only the reformed GQs are currently subject to approval criteria and review

# QiW and Designations

- All qualifications other than reformed General Qualifications currently subject to designation criteria and review
- User guide produced for submitting qualifications onto QiW. Guide also clarifies evidence requirements for designation.
- Further information about QiW, including links to the guide and instructional videos, can be found at <http://qualificationswales.org/qualifications/qualifications-in-wales/?lang=en>

# Awarding body compliance and monitoring

- Targeted audit activity
- Intelligence from:
  - Statements of compliance
  - Incident management and notification
  - Risk management
  - Complaints
  - Activity – volume and type



# Awarding body compliance and monitoring

- **2016 Statement of Compliance** – submission 1 June – 30 September
- **Compliance with QW Standard Conditions of Recognition**
  - A1.3 - awarding body activity
  - A6 - identification and management of risks
  - A7 - identification and management of incidents which could have an adverse effect
  - B3 - notification to Qualifications Wales of incidents which could have an adverse effect
  - I3.1 - design of certificates

# Vocational qualifications monitoring

- Volume of certificates awarded for each qualification
- Number of awarding bodies offering each qualification
- Nature (risk) of the qualification e.g. licence to practice
- Progression opportunities linked to the qualification e.g. entry to HE
- Whether the qualification is eligible for public funding
- Qualifications not targeted by the sectoral review
- Trends and patterns linked to complaints, incidents or intelligence received about awarding bodies or qualifications

# Sector review

## Overall aim of sector review

To ensure that qualifications, and the qualification system, in the sector being reviewed, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales.

# Model and Timeframe – Health & Social Care

## Phase 1 - overall lines of enquiry

- is the **range and nature** of qualifications available in the sector sufficient?
- do they support **economic growth** in the sector?
- are the **assessment arrangements** of those qualifications effective, including their reliability and validity?
- are the needs of Welsh speaking learners being sufficiently met – and are the qualifications meeting the needs of a **bilingual nation**?
- are the requirements of **employers, higher education and the professions** being met?
- do the knowledge, skills and understanding requirements reflect **current knowledge and best practice**?
- are the qualifications **comparable** with similar qualifications in Europe and elsewhere;
- are qualifications in the sector provided **efficiently** and do they represent **value for money**?

# Health and Social Care review

- Phase 1 complete (September 2015 – March 2016)
- Conclusions and proposed actions being finalised
- Workshop with awarding bodies on 28 April to present outcomes

## Stakeholder engagement – Health and Social Care

- 125 separate engagements – 20 of those with groups
- 23 meetings with sector bodies
- 13 meetings with CSSIW, Estyn and the Welsh Language Commissioner's office or Welsh Government
- 15 meetings with local authorities
- 7 meetings with other employers
- 10 meetings with Higher Education Institutions
- 14 meetings with Further Education Institutions
- 11 meetings with schools
- 14 meetings with work based learning providers
- 7 meetings with awarding bodies
- 6 discussions with service user groups

# Contact

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