



# FORUM

*The nuts & bolts of awarding*

**Gordon Associates** cordially invites you to AO-Forum 2023

**Date...** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Venue...** Woburn House Conference Centre, 20 Tavistock Square London WC1H 9HQ

... Nearest tube: Euston or Kings Cross – see [www.woburnhouse.co.uk](http://www.woburnhouse.co.uk) for further details

**Cost...** £150 + VAT (£180). **Early Bird Price: £125 + VAT (£150)** for bookings received before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## AGENDA

09.00 – 09.50 **Registration, Tea & Coffee**

09.50 **Welcome** – by Ben Smith, AO-Forum Chairman

10.00 – 10.45 **Closing The Loop: Following the Evidence Trail**

*Sarah Edmunds, Founder & Director, Artemis Associates*

In this session Sarah will discuss where awarding organisations can make improvements in operational practice in a very practical sense: taking Ofqual's maxim "show us evidence, not promises".

Starting at policy-level, we will look at what, where and how valid evidence should be created, retrieved and used to satisfy regulatory scrutiny; the importance of useable accessible processes for daily operations, plus the wraparound details which can provide confidence in an organisation's likelihood of compliance (be that generally, thematically or through specific investigation).

As it is spring, this is an opportunity for some Spring cleaning for established AOs; and for those recently recognised, a chance to check their emerging approach to some best practice. Sarah's reflections are based on her experiences providing guidance and support on regulatory compliance to nearly 30 organisations in the last four years.

10.45 – 11.30 **DfE - Update On Level 3 Qualification Reforms**

*Janet Ryland, Qualifications Funding Approval Team and Sue Clarke, Level 3 ReformTeam, Department for Education*

Janet and Sue will give an update on the implementation of the review of post 16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England. This will include an overview of the progress of the review, both at level 3 and level 2 and below, and focus on the new funding criteria for level 3 alternative academic qualifications and technical qualifications which are part of the first cycle of new funding approval and will be available for 2025 to 2026.

11.30 – 11.50 **Break for Tea & Coffee**

11.50 – 12.40 **Ofqual's Regulatory Approach and Priorities**

*Claire McCann, Associate Director Awarding Organisations Engagement, Ofqual*

Hear about Ofqual's regulatory approach and priorities, including what these mean for end-point assessments and successful delivery of vocational and technical qualifications and results.

12.40 – 13.40 **Lunch**

- 13.40 – 14.20 **Developing A Simpler Skills System – IfATE’s Role In Reforming Technical Qualifications To Meet Employer Needs**  
*Carmel Grant, Deputy Director, IfATE*  
The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) is an employer led organisation, it approves occupation standards developed by employers and technical qualifications which are centred around these standards. IfATE plays a central role in skills reform and will provide an update on the rollout of T levels and Higher Technical Qualifications and the preparations for approving post 16 qualifications at Level 3 and below
- 14.20 – 15.00 **Running An Awarding Organisation – Can We Keep Everyone Happy? Should We Be Even Trying?**  
*Vida Stewart (CEO) and Fiona Summers (Deputy CEO) Laser Learning Awards*  
Vida and Fiona will draw on their experience and expertise of running an AO to share some of the challenges they face including dealing with multiple stakeholders, often with conflicting priorities and needs, in an ever-changing external policy environment; how they decide who needs to be kept happy (or not); and how they try to achieve that (or not).
- 15.00 – 15.20 **Forward Thinking: The Transformation of Print for Education**  
*Tim Cammack, Managing Director, Secure and Confidential Documents*  
In this session, we will investigate the digital future of personalised exams and certificates. We will delve into the latest trends in digital printing on-demand, analyse how our new remote working environments are affecting certificate production, and discuss the impact of new technology and how they may shape the future of paper-based examinations.
- 15.20-15.30 **Q&A Session**
- 15.30 **Closing – Ben Smith, AO-Forum Chairman**