

Update from Qualifications Scotland

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The Landscape and Context

Drivers for change

Context

System-wide reform, ongoing from 2021:

- OECD Review of Curriculum for Excellence
- Muir, Hayward and Withers

Transparency, independence and public confidence

Alignment between qualifications and workforce needs.

Greater emphasis on: efficiency, impact and accountability

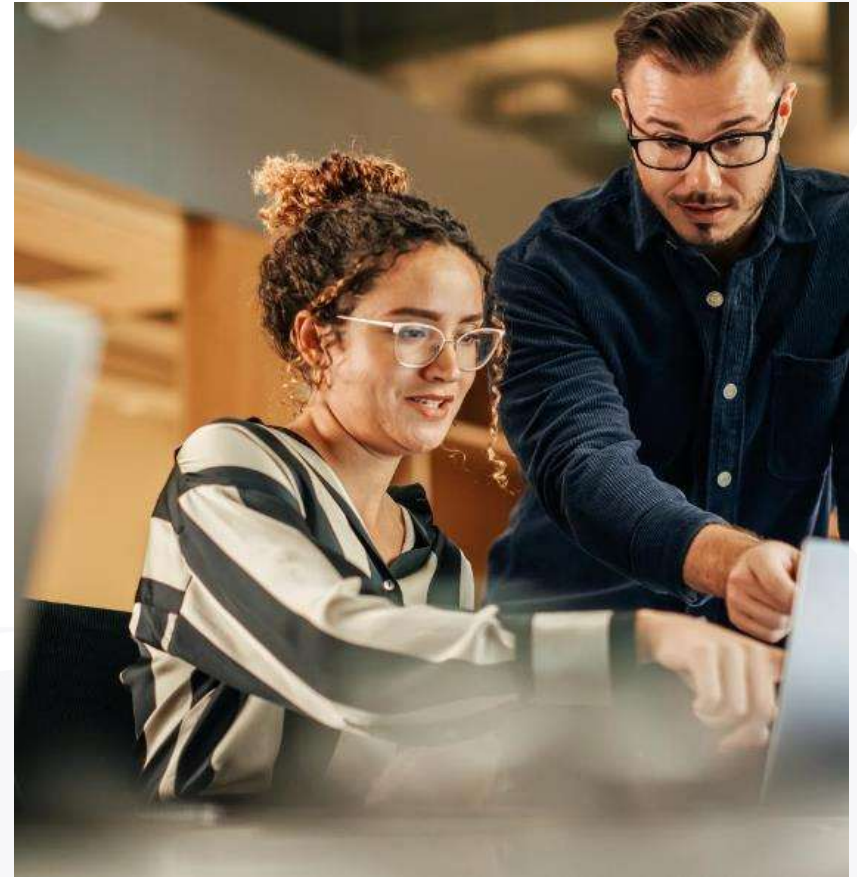


Where we are now

Qualifications Scotland Accreditation

Where we are now: Accreditation

- Established under the Education (Scotland) Act 2025
- Clear Governance and operational separation between Awarding body function, Accreditation (regulatory) function, Strengthened independence of Accreditation
- Key governance developments:
- Ministerial appointment of Accreditation Committee
Convenor
- Enhanced reporting to Scottish Government on regulated delivery



Chief Accreditation Officer

Introduction of a Chief Accreditation Officer Dr Liz Barron-Majerik.

A new statutory role providing:

- Clearer regulatory leadership and accountability
- Increased advocacy and visibility for Accreditation
- Stronger strategic oversight of the function
- Enabling greater engagement across the education and skills system



Developing Priorities

Corporate Plan

Corporate Plan

Accreditation is being shaped around four core outcomes:

- Enhance our independence and future-readiness
- Leaders in excellence, quality assurance, growth and impact of accredited qualifications
- Capitalise on strong, meaningful and insight-driven partnerships
- Evidence, insight and innovation to deliver agile and transparent accreditation



An evolving function

- A more visible and outward-facing regulatory function
- Greater focus on the impact and value of qualifications
- More meaningful and earlier engagement with awarding organisations
- Increased use of evidence and insight to target activity
- A more agile and transparent approach to regulation





Enhancing:

Stakeholder services and processes (including digital improvements)

Engagement

Ensuring alignment with Scottish Government priorities and Workforce and skills needs



Preparing for a formal two-year review

Development of:

- vision, mission and purpose
- A standalone corporate plan

Maintaining our strengths

Our core regulatory approach remains consistent.

Principles-based and proportionate

Activity targeted based on risk

Tri-fold quality focus

- Awarding organisations — oversight of systems and quality assurance arrangements
- Providers and delivery — monitoring how requirements are applied in practice
- Qualifications — scrutiny at accreditation to ensure fitness for purpose

Our core regulatory approach remains consistent.

Our function is still intelligence-led and evidence-informed, drawing on insight across the system

Designed to:

- maintain confidence in quality and standards
- minimise unnecessary burden where confidence is high

Benefits of working with us

Fully funded independent assurance

External audit, provider monitoring and qualification scrutiny delivered without charge

Integrated & fully funded SCQF level and credit support

Supporting the positioning and comparability of qualifications

Enhanced credibility and recognition

Ensuring accreditation and SCQF alignment support the usability and recognition of qualifications

Risk identification and mitigation

Early insight into issues impacting on awarding organisations and delivery

System-wide insight across delivery networks

Visibility of how requirements are applied in practice across providers

Proportionate and targeted regulatory activity

Minimising unnecessary burden

Supports consistency at scale

Reinforcing quality assurance across providers and qualifications

**Whilst strengthening our
offer**

Strengthening our offer:

- Increased recognition and promotion of accredited qualifications
- Development of more supportive regulatory tools
- Progress toward recognised international delivery of Scottish accredited qualifications
- Greater flexibility in:
 - provider/centre identity on certification
 - branding in marketing materials



In summary, we are working towards:

- A strengthened, understood and more independent Accreditation function
- Following a clear direction, but responsive to learner priorities
- Applying a proportionate, risk-based approach to quality
- A voluntary model, with engagement driven by clear and tangible value for awarding organisations

Ensuring that when an accredited qualification is used, relied upon, or funded, it is trusted by all involved.

Thank you

Any questions?