

13 December 2017

Office of Qualifications
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Our Ref: RO58/2017

Dear Responsible Officer

Making clear which qualifications Ofqual regulates

1. It is important for public confidence in the regulated qualifications market that the Register of Regulated Qualifications is an accurate record that users can rely on. As you know, you are responsible for maintaining the Register for your regulated qualifications. We are writing to ask you to check that only your regulated qualifications are showing on the Register.
2. Our recently published beta version of the digital Ofqual Handbook, which brings together the General Conditions of Recognition with our other regulatory requirements (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ofqual-handbook>) reminds you that:

We regulate qualifications which:

1. *are within an awarding organisation's scope of recognition, and*
 2. *have, or may be reasonably expected to have, persons seeking to obtain the qualification who are, or may reasonably be expected to be, assessed wholly or mainly in England*
3. This means we do not regulate qualifications which are:
 - outside an awarding organisation's scope of recognition (for example, because they are a different level or type, or in a different subject area)
 - taken only by students outside England
4. We think that a minority of awarding organisations have qualifications on our Register that do not meet both of these requirements. Please check that all of the qualifications you have on the Register meet both points 1 and 2 above

such that they are regulated by us. Where this is not the case, these qualifications need to be removed from the register.

5. We have recently published a document showing the current [scope of recognition](#) of awarding organisations. Should you want to extend your scope of recognition, in order to bring qualifications into regulation, you can apply to do so: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-have-your-qualifications-regulated>.
6. When you are determining whether a qualification that is offered outside England is in fact regulated, you should be aware that we will consider the absence of any certifications in England within the last 2 years as a risk indicator that may cause us to review the status of the qualification.
7. We know that most awarding organisations' data is right but we need your help to make sure that the Register is accurate and comprehensive – so that users of qualifications are not at risk of being misled as to whether a qualification is regulated or not. We will check the Register over the coming months to ensure that you have taken action if needed and contact you if necessary. We recognise that this may need a little time, so we will not start checking until after 1 March 2018.
8. If you have any questions about whether or not a specific qualification should be included, please check with your lead in the Standards Team in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Beach', written in a cursive style.

Phil Beach

Executive Director for Vocational and Technical Qualifications