

31 August 2018

Office of Qualifications  
and Examinations Regulation  
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Coventry CV5 6UB

Our Ref: **RO63/2018**

Your Ref: RO60/RO62 cont.

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## Information submitted for the Register of Regulated Qualifications – Qualification Type

Dear Responsible Officer

We wrote to you on 15 June (RO60<sup>1</sup>) and 20 July (RO62<sup>2</sup>) in relation to the quality of data on the Register and a specific field known as 'Qualification Type'.

We said in RO60 that any qualifications with operational end dates on or before 31 August would not need to be updated where they form part of your plans for withdrawal of those qualifications.

In reviewing the Register, some qualifications with operational end dates of on or before 31 August have a lengthy time period prior to certification end date (some more than a year) which risks misleading users of qualifications. We have also found some qualifications with operational end dates but not certification end dates.

We have considered this further and decided to add an additional restriction to the exception to our requirements on when Qualification Types would not need to be updated:

- The only qualifications which we **do not** expect AOs to update the Qualification Type for are those which have **both** an operational end date on or before 31 August 2018 **and** a certification end date on or before 31 August 2019.
- AOs should assign the correct qualification type to **all other qualifications**: those with either an operational end date after 31 August 2018, or a certification end date after 31 August 2019.
- Provided you comply with the requirements in Condition D7, you may choose to assign operational and certification end dates to qualifications as part of this review (or at any other time of course). If, in doing so, you set an operational end date on or before 31 August 2018 and a certification end date on or before 31 August 2019, we will not expect you to update the qualification type although you may choose to do so as it is straightforward to make the change on the Portal.

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<sup>1</sup> RO60 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-awarding-organisations-qualification-type>

<sup>2</sup> RO62 and final annexes <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-awarding-organisations-qualification-type-on-register>

You should ensure Ofqual is notified of your intention to withdraw any qualifications through Messages on the Portal. Conversely, under Condition B3.4 if you are planning to make available a qualification which is substantially different in type or content to any which you have previously made available, you should notify us through the appropriate channels

The timescale for review remains as set out in RO62: the Portal field of 'Qualification Type' will open for amendments on 1 October 2018 and close on 31 October 2018. I would remind you to use the final annexes<sup>3</sup> previously supplied as part of RO62 to determine in which category your qualifications should be placed. This will help you comply with Condition E6.2. We can help if you require further support: please contact your standards Portfolio manager through Messages on the Portal who will be able to assist you in explaining the changes.

### **Performing arts graded examinations**

In addition, we made you aware through RO62, that we were minded to accept the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre's proposals for a new category to encompass performing arts graded examinations. We said we would write to you before 1 October to confirm arrangements for these qualifications. Following RO62, we have received no representations in relation to this proposal; we have therefore decided to create this administrative category. The description for this new category on the Register will be as set out in annex C of RO62. The new category will show on the Portal from 1 October.

### **Scope of Recognition**

As previously said in RO60, nothing about this exercise affects your scope of recognition. However, if you are concerned that any of your qualifications are outside your scope of recognition, please continue to make the changes to your Qualification Types and send a message through the Portal detailing the change you feel is necessary. We will log the information and be in contact. Please note, this process is specific to RO62 and RO63 only and not in relation to any other query on scope of recognition where the usual process would continue to apply.

### **Statement of Compliance**

Please disregard RO60-63 for the purposes of submitting your statement of compliance for 2018.

Once again, thank you for your help in improving how regulated qualifications can be described and understood.

Yours sincerely



**Phil Beach**

Executive Director Vocational and Technical Qualifications

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<sup>3</sup> RO62 and final annexes <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-awarding-organisations-qualification-type-on-register>