



All Responsible Officers
Issued via Portal and Gov.uk

31 July 2019

Action required

Our ref: RO65b/2019

Information about international delivery of Ofqual regulated qualifications

Dear Responsible Officer,

We wrote to you on 24 April 2019 ([RO65/2019](#)) regarding how we intend to make it easier for users of qualifications to find out which are regulated by Ofqual and can be taken outside the UK, alongside collection of international certifications data, contributing towards wider initiatives facilitating exports from the education sector.

We set out that would be making three changes:

- A requirement to provide Non-UK certifications data next year;
- A requirement to provide Other UK regions data next year;
- A new field on the Register that shows whether an awarding organisation is 'willing to offer' a qualification internationally.

Our RO letter was preceded by engagement on the plans with FAB, a small group of invited AOs and explanation at an Ofqual conference seminar.

A small number of awarding organisations responded to our request for feedback. Most of the responses were positive and expressed no significant concerns about this work so details of next steps are set out below.

We are going ahead with the collection of international data including Other UK and Non-UK regions for the time period proposed – January 2020 (for quarter 4 October to December 2019). You will need to provide international certifications data on a quarterly basis beginning in January 2020. Around 100 awarding organisations already optionally provide international certifications data, covering around 2,500 qualifications, so we

do not believe there is a high burden attached to this requirement. We do not believe this is commercially sensitive.

We will be asking you to provide figures for Other UK and Non-UK international certifications (where the assessment takes place internationally). This information is to be provided in aggregate, not country by country.

We are not changing the data collection templates. The VTQ quarterly data collection has never included general qualifications and we do not intend to change this as the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) collects GQ international data including non-UK certifications. We receive such information from JCQ. There is therefore no change to GQ data collections.

We have today (31 July) also published updated the technical document - [Vocational Quarterly Data Collection-Guide to the Data Submission Process](#) - relating to submission of certifications data collections which includes the arrangements set out in this letter.

We will publish information about these certifications in the future when we have sufficient aggregated data.

We are going ahead with the creation of a new field on the Register.

Some responses to our proposal to call this “willing to offer” suggested it might prove misleading to users. We also recognise that there might be some instances in which you are already offering something in a particular centre overseas and don’t want to offer it elsewhere.

We believe there is merit in a field on the Register that allows users to narrow down their qualification search to qualifications where there is potential for international delivery, an area we have continued to liaise on with Department for International Trade.

We will slightly rephrase this field to “**Currently and / or will consider offering internationally**” and support this with a note for users that explains this is an indication only, not a guarantee. You will need to respond with a ‘yes or no’ to each qualification: qualifications that are taken internationally should be marked as ‘yes’ even if you are not seeking to expand your offer.

We intend to make this **new field live** on the Portal week commencing 9 September 2019. We will give awarding organisations three months (rather than the two we originally said in the earlier RO letter) to populate the field for existing qualifications. The field will not need to be completed for qualifications which are close to expiry with an operational end date that is on or before 31 December 2019.

You will be able to use “My Reports” on the Portal (launched on 10 July) to help you carry out the updates to your qualifications. A new rule will be added to the data quality report in early September to identify which of your qualifications should be updated as part of this exercise. We will undertake checks from December 2019 to review progress in completing the new field.

We are not proceeding with our original intention to **pre-populate the field** given the differing requirements for different AOs. Instead, you will be able

to bulk-edit qualifications in the Portal to address this field (and there's a ['how-to'](#) guide for creating and editing qualifications on the Portal to help with this).

Action required

- Review your qualifications data now ready to populate the new field “Currently and / or will consider offering internationally” from 9 September 2019.
- Be prepared to provide your international and other UK regions certification data for quarter 3 in January 2020

Please send us a Contact the Regulator message if you have any queries about the letter or the actions you are required to undertake.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator