



**107/18 Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were noted from David Wakefield and Michelle Meadows.

**108/18 Declarations of interest**

Hywel Jones asked for the Inspiration Trust to be deleted as he was now an Executive Director at Astrea Trust.

Lesley Davies declared she was the Chair of the Royal British Legion in Cheshire.

Christine Ryan declared her husband was Group HR Director of Nestle UK and Ireland.

**109/18 Minutes and Matters arising**

The Board agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 were a true and accurate record and noted the matters arising since the last meeting of the Board.

**110/18 Chair's update**

The Chair updated the Board on the recruitment for new members, who will be appointed later in 2019.

**111/18 [Closed]**

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

**112/18 Chief Regulator's report**

The Chief Regulator provided a report on the work of the organisation since the last meeting of the Board.

EQF referencing

The Board noted the work which had taken place on referencing the Regulated Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework and that a draft report would be submitted to the EU's EQF Advisory Committee shortly.

Decision

*The Board agreed to delegate to the Chief Regulator authority to sign off the draft report referencing the Regulated Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework, before it is submitted to the EU's EQF Advisory Committee and sign off the final report prior to publication.*

National Assessments Baseline Trial

The Board was briefed about developments in the new reception baseline assessment. It was noted that the assessment framework had recently been published, and the window had opened for schools to register interest in taking part in the pilot of the assessment which would run from this September."

The Board were asked about the amount of information which would be given back to schools from the assessment and they were advised that narrative statements setting out what the child had been able to do in the assessment would be provided to schools.

### Recognition

The Board was informed that a total of nine new organisations have been recognised through the reformed recognition process since June 2018 including one offering end-point assessment. In addition eleven expansions to recognition have been approved since January, of which nine were for end-point assessments.

### A level Science

The Board noted the final research report evaluating the changes to the practical work in science A level, will be published shortly. The results suggest that overall there has been no detrimental effect on the practical skills but with some differences between the sciences. Whilst the results showed an improvement in practical skills in biology, the results for chemistry and physics stayed the same.

### Reform – Functional Skills English and Maths

The Board noted that Pearson had now been approved to deliver both L1/L2 and Entry Level Function Skills in English and Maths, and that AQA has been approved to deliver L1/2 Maths. The Board noted that there were some issues the AOs would continue to work to address but that the executive were confident their qualifications are fit for purpose.

### Accountability for Awards

The Board noted that the launch of the consultation on Accountability for Awarding on 25 February was picked up by a number of media establishments. The Chief Regulator confirmed that the majority of the concern seemed to be around burden on awarding organisations and centres.

### [Closed]

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

### National Reference Test (NRT)

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

### Associate Director HR, L&D and Facilities

The Board noted that the recruitment for the Associate Director for HR had taken place, and was subject to some further due diligence. It was expected that an appointment would be made shortly.

## **113/18 Corporate Plan & Regulatory Burden**

The Corporate Plan and Regulatory Burden Statement were presented to the Board.

### Regulatory Burden Statement

The Board considered the Regulatory Burden Statement and questioned how it might be assured that Ofqual was successfully reducing burden. It asked the executive to consider the inclusion for 2020 of metrics to measure burden, to provide some context to the Statement. The Board noted that other regulators were looking to learn from Ofqual with regard to reporting on regulatory burden. It asked for the inclusion of a short evaluation in the document providing a comparison of this year's statement with that from last year.

### Decision

*The Board agreed for the Chief Regulator to sign off the Regulatory Burden Statement, subject to an additional comparison paragraph being added.*

### Corporate Plan

The Board considered the draft 2019-22 Corporate Plan, which it had previously seen at the February Strategy Day. It noted that the Plan had been shared with stakeholders, including the Department for Education and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

Decision

*The Board agreed the Corporate Plan for publication.*

**114/18 [Closed]**

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

**115/18 Basic Digital Skills Qualification (Open)**

The Board considered the paper on the new Basic Digital Skills Qualifications, which will be introduced from 2020. It noted that these qualifications and the associated Functional Skills digital qualifications will be based on new national standards commissioned by the DfE.

Decision

*The Board agreed:*

- *The proposed changes to: the regulatory approach and draft Conditions, requirements and Guidance for BDSQs as set out in the paper.*
- *To implement the consultation proposals unchanged.*
- *To delegate final approval of the Conditions, requirements & Guidance and associated consultation outcomes documents to the Chief Regulator in consultation with the Chair.*
- *To delegate discussions around the policy and regulatory approach to Digital Functional Skills qualifications to the Reform sub-committee of the Board.*

**116/18 Review of the General Conditions of Recognition**

Conditions

The Board noted the paper on the Ofqual, Qualification Wales and CCEA Regulation Conditions of Recognition where a joint consultation on changes was proposed.

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

Decision

*The Board agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Regulator in consultation with the Chair to approve the consultation on the full range of potential changes to the Conditions and Guidance.*

Fees

The Board noted the paper, which explained that the current wording of Condition F1 allows inconsistent provision of qualification fee information. This could hinder the ability of purchasers to secure value for money.

The Board questioned whether AOs would be likely to raise concerns about other AOs being able to see what they were charging for qualifications. The Board was advised that this point was considered in response to the Call For Evidence, noting that currently 56% of awarding organisations do make available their prices on their website, and therefore can be assumed not to consider this a commercial risk. The consultation will provide the opportunity for any further views to be raised.

Decision

*The Board agreed:*

- *To consult on making changes to Ofqual’s general Conditions of Recognition which would achieve the policy intentions set out in the paper.*
- *To delegate final approval of the proposals and consultation to the Chief Regulator in consultation with the Chair.*

**117/18 [Closed]**

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

**118/18 [Closed]**

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

**119/18 [Closed]**

[This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.]

**120/18 Review of the Standards Advisory Group Membership**

The Board considered the paper on membership of its Standards Advisory Group (SAG).

*Decision*

*The Board agreed to*

- *re-appoint all independent members of group for a twelve month period except for Grace Grima and Ian Stockford,*
- *appoint Mike Cresswell as an independent member of the Group once his Board Membership expires.*

**121/18 Publication of papers**

The Board agreed for all open items to be published.

**122/18 Other Business**

There were no items of any other Business.

**123/18 Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Board will be on Wednesday 22 May 2019.