



Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Date

Wednesday, 22 April 2020

Attendees

Board

Susan Barratt	
Ian Bauckham	
Delroy Beverley	
Sally Collier	Chief Regulator
Mike Cresswell	
Lesley Davies	
Hywel Jones	
Dame Christine Ryan	
Roger Taylor	Chair
Matt Tee	
Mike Thompson	
Frances Wadsworth	

Ofqual

Phil Beach	Executive Director, Vocational and Technical Qualifications
Beth Black	Director of Research and Analysis
Niamh Field	Board Secretary
Daniel Gutteridge	Director of Legal
Christine Forde	Associate Director, Regulation Development and Impact
Michael Hanton	Director of Strategy and Markets
Matthew Humphrey	Director of Legal Moderation and Enforcement
Kate Keating	Director of Communications
Emma Leary	Associate Director, Policy for VTQs
Michelle Meadows	Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research
Sean Pearce	Chief Operating Officer
Natalie Prosser	Director of Operations for VTQs
Julie Swan	Executive Director, General Qualifications
Lydia Waine	Associate Director, Legal Establishment
Anona White	Private Secretary to the Chief Regulator

Observer

Catherine Oakes	Associate Director, Media and Campaigns
-----------------	---

08/20 Welcome, apologies and declaration of interest

There were no apologies.

There were no declarations of interest.

09/20 2020 Awarding: Vocational and Technical Qualifications

The Board considered the proposed approach for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQ) in response to Covid-19. Board members commended the VTQ team for their complex and detailed work in such a short timeframe.

Following the presentation given, and feedback received, at the Emergency Board Meeting on 15 April 2020, the team had produced a full consultation document and an executive summary for publication. These documents had been circulated to the Board immediately prior to the meeting. Feedback from the sector had also been considered, in particular, from Awarding Organisations (AOs) and the Federation of Awarding Bodies, who welcomed the guidance, clarity and timing. Communication around qualification categorisation and how it would work in practice would need to be developed and Ofqual would need to offer technical support to some AOs as they develop their approaches to awarding VTQs.

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

The VTQ team reported that there were some outstanding drafting issues to finalise but the comments from board members from the previous Emergency Board Meeting on the equalities section and the hierarchy of the principles had been incorporated. Due to the speed of policy development and engagement with the sector, a number of policy proposals (such as now proposing that Ofqual may require awarding organisations to provide assessments in the autumn) had been developed from the previous meeting. Those were identified to the Board through the consultation proposals. A short survey covering the key points of the proposed consultation had been sent to AOs and that feedback would also be included in the final document.

With regard to next steps, the team would undertake minor drafting and incorporate the comments made by board members. Board members were encouraged to send any comments they had on the documents issued directly prior to the meeting by lunchtime on Thursday, 23 April 2020.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to delegate the sign-off of the final document to the Chair and the Chief Regulator prior to publication on Friday, 24 April 2020.

10/20 Revised Regulatory Burden Statement 2020

The Regulatory Burden Statement 2020 had been brought to the Board because Ofqual was required, by law, to publish the Statement annually. The Statement provided an overview of the work undertaken in the previous year and how Ofqual proposed to manage its burden for the forthcoming year. Following comments from the Board on last year's document, the 2020 Statement now included measurable metrics on pages four and five. The Statement had been produced in March 2020 but had been revised to take into consideration the impact of Covid-19.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to approve the Revised Regulatory Burden Statement 2020 for publication on Ofqual's website.

11/20 Any Other Business

i. Proposed approach to awarding for private candidates and calculated grades

The Executive Director for GQ presented an approach to awarding calculated grades for some private candidates.

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

The approach would be available to candidates who had no previous relationship with a centre, for whom a centre assessment grade would not otherwise be available, to enter with a specific centre which would consider and where necessary generate and validate evidence that the centre could use to provide a centre assessment grade and a position in the centre's rank order.

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

RESOLVED:

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

The Board resolved to:

- 1) Publish an addition to Ofqual guidance for use by centres that were considering submitting centre assessment grades and rank orders for private candidates to require that Heads of Centre had the same level of confidence in the judgements submitted for private candidates and their position in the centre's rank order as they would in the judgements they submitted for their own students;
- 2) Clarify that Ofqual permits but does not require an exam board to implement an approach whereby an exam board:
 - approves specific centres to work with students for whom a centre assessment grade would not otherwise be available to

consider, and where necessary generate and validate, evidence of the student's work that the centre would use to provide a centre assessment grade and a position in the centre's rank order;

- operate in line with the guidance on the level of confidence a Head of Centre must have in the judgements submitted to the exam boards;
- 3) Confirm that any exam board that chose to make such an approach available did so in the context of the normal Conditions of Recognition that require an exam board, among other things, to identify and manage the risks to the safe delivery of qualifications and of an adverse effect.

ii. Chair of Finance & HR Committee

Following the resignation of David Wakefield from the Board at the end of March 2020, a vacancy had arisen for the position of Chair of the Finance & HR Committee. The Chair of the Board invited Board members to submit expressions of interest in the role to him by email. The Chair would be formally appointed at the Emergency Board Meeting on 04 May 2020.

iii. Update on General Qualifications consultation

The Executive Director for General Qualifications (GQs) provided a verbal update on the 2020 Awarding GQ consultation that had been launched following the Emergency Board Meeting on 15 April 2020. A total of 7,889 responses had been received at lunchtime (on 22 April 2020) from parents, learners and schools. Overall, the responses were supportive. The outcome from the GQ consultation would be presented to the Board at the Emergency Board Meeting on 13 May 2020.

The meeting ended at 17.12pm.