



Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Time and venue

09.30am by Microsoft Teams

Date

Thursday, 03 September 2020

Attendees

Board

Susan Barratt

Ian Bauckham

Delroy Beverley

Mike Cresswell

Lesley Davies

Hywel Jones

Catherine McClellan

Dame Christine Ryan

Dame Glenys Stacey

Roger Taylor

Mike Thompson

Frances Wadsworth

Acting Chief Regulator
Chair

Ofqual

Phil Beach

Daniel Gutteridge

Michael Hanton

Cath Jadhav

Andy Lester

Sean Pearce

Natalie Prosser

Julie Swan

Executive Director, Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Director of Legal

Director of Strategy and Markets

Director of Standards and Comparability

Senior Strategy Manager (Minutes)

Chief Operating Officer

Director of Operations, Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Executive Director, General Qualifications (until item 117/20)

In attendance

Amanda Spielman

Chair, Recovery Committee

117/20 Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Matt Tee.

118/20 Declarations of interest

Dame Christine Ryan declared an interest as a Board member of Ofsted.

119/20 Approach to Agreeing Minutes of Emergency Board Meetings

The Chair summarised a discussion of the Board in its private session. The Board agreed to the recommendation of the paper subject to specified amendments.

RESOLVED:

The Board resolved to agree the proposed approach to approval of minutes subject to:

- i. The agenda being amended to confirm that the paper was for decision.
- ii. Clarification in the paper that the proposal is the Board's normal practice for approval of emergency Board minutes.
- iii. Clarification in the paper that the Board minutes to be approved are not yet circulated.
- iv. The date for written comment by the Board to be amended to be no later than close of business on 11 September 2020.

120/20 Chair's Update

The Chair gave a verbal update on his attendance at a hearing of the Education Select Committee on 02 September 2020 alongside the Executive Directors for General Qualifications and Strategy, Risk and Research and the Acting Chief Regulator. The Chair noted in particular:

- i. His hope that the Education Select Committee hearing had provided an important first step in rebuilding Ofqual's reputation.
- ii. That the hearing had provided an opportunity to highlight his view that any alternate algorithm would not have yielded a different outcome.

In reflecting on the hearing, the Chair noted the importance of broad public debate about the role of algorithms in public policy, and the importance of public acceptance of that role.

The Board noted the desirability of the Board having a formal session to consider how governance operated through the summer and lessons which could be learned. **ACTION: NP**

The Board sought and received an update from the Chair and Executive Director for General Qualifications on the volume of appeals being experienced by exam boards and their manageability within the appropriate UCAS deadline.

121/20 Acting Chief Regulator's Update

The Acting Chief Regulator gave a verbal update on a range of human resourcing matters, and was able to confirm that arrangements to secure seconded resources from Ofsted to meet immediate resourcing needs had

allowed two senior members of staff to be identified who could begin in vacant Ofqual posts on 07 September 2020. This included interim arrangements to fill the role of Executive Director of Vocational and Technical Qualifications.

The Chief Regulator noted work underway on a number of immediate priorities including:

- i. The Comprehensive Spending Review
- ii. Arrangements for Autumn 2020
- iii. Arrangements for 2021, where she noted a range of concurrent work programmes underway in different parts of government

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

The Board sought and received an update from the Chief Regulator and Director of Operations, Vocational and Technical Qualifications on the current position on late issue of results for BTEC qualifications.

122/20 Recovery Committee Chair's Update

The Board noted that the Recovery Committee had now been established as a sub-committee of the Board. The Recovery Committee Chair gave a verbal update on its establishment, terms of reference and membership and confirmed that there was no obstacle to the Committee beginning its business immediately.

The Board noted the importance of clarity of the role of the Board and its Committees during the period in which the Recovery Committee was in operation. The Chair confirmed that this would be discussed at the Board meeting of 16 September 2020. **ACTION: NP, MH, AL**

The Recovery Committee Chair highlighted the immediate priorities of the Committee and in particular the importance of arrangements for awarding general qualifications in 2021 and the need for co-ordination of all related activities across government, and Ofqual establishing effective working relationships with those involved.

The Recovery Committee Chair noted the success in quickly securing seconded resource from Ofsted to support Ofqual's work, and emphasised the supportive spirit in which Ofsted staff were engaged in this activity.

The Board provided comments on the terms of reference for the Recovery Committee which had been circulated for information. The Board was invited to submit any comments to the Director of Legal.

123/20 Publication of Papers

The Board agreed to the publication of all open papers, subject to the agreed amendments to the paper for item 115/20.

124/20 Any Other Business

The Chair noted the importance of the Department for Education beginning the recruitment of a permanent Chief Regulator and reported that discussions to that effect had been held with officials in the Department.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 10.33am.