



Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Time and venue

18.00 by Microsoft Teams

Date

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Attendees

Board

Susan Barratt

Ian Bauckham

Delroy Beverley

Lesley Davies

Hywel Jones

Simon Lebus

Catherine McClellan

Dame Christine Ryan

Matt Tee

Mike Thompson

Frances Wadsworth

Interim Chair
(from 18.50)

Interim Chief Regulator

Ofqual

Beth Black

Niamh Field

Lorna Fitzjohn

Richard Garrett

Daniel Gutteridge

Michael Hanton

Matthew Humphrey

Cath Jadhav

Andy Lester

Michelle Meadows

Jane Parsons

Sean Pearce

Julie Swan

SRO 2021 Programme (VTQs)

Board Secretary

Acting Executive Director, Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Director of Policy and Strategic Relationships

Director of Legal

Director of Strategy and Markets

Director of Legal Moderation and Enforcement

SRO 2021 Programme (GQs)

Private Secretary to the Interim Chief Regulator

Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research

Director of Communications

Chief Operating Officer

Executive Director, General Qualifications

In attendance

Dame Glenys Stacey

Chair, 2021 Committee

180/20 Welcome and apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

The Chair reminded Board members to have regard to the legal advice that had been circulated on 12 January 2021 outlining the risks associated with the arrangements for awarding 2021. The Director of Legal outlined the mitigating factors associated with the risks.

181/20 Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

182/20 Report from the 2021 Committee

The Board noted the report from the 2021 Committee which outlined the Committee's advice, following its meeting earlier that day, to the Board on the assessment proposition for GCSE, AS and A levels.

183/20 Consultation on alternative arrangements for awarding 2021

The Board considered the paper which outlined a number of options and factors for board members to discuss which would ultimately inform decisions which would be asked of the Board in the future.

With regard to vocational and technical qualifications, the Board supported the permissive approach and noted that awarding organisations (AOs) could determine the alternative arrangements in line with the Extended Extraordinary Regulatory Framework and its guiding principles. The mechanism to cancel these exams was more complicated and was likely to occur in qualifications that were more closely aligned to general qualifications.

The Board agreed to proceed to consult on the alternative arrangements for awarding 2021 as outlined in the paper and that the final sign-off of the document should be delegated to the Interim Chief Regulator in consultation with the Interim Chair providing that there were no substantive changes that would alter the Board's decision.

RESOLVED:

Subject to the comments made above, the Board resolved to agree to:

- i. Consult on alternative arrangements for the award of qualifications in 2021 in substantially the form of the annexed consultation documents; and
- ii. Delegate approval of the final consultation documents to the Interim Chief Regulator in consultation with the Interim Chair.

184/20 Any Other Business

The Board noted that, following a competitive process, Charlie Henning had been appointed as Associate Director for People and Culture. Interviews for the Director of Digital, Data and Technology would take place week commencing 18 January 2021.

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 19.26pm