

4 May 2016

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Our Ref: RO49/2016

Dear Responsible Officer

## **Changes to the regulation of vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland**

We previously wrote to you to advise you of changes that had been proposed to how vocational qualifications are regulated in Northern Ireland (see [RO45](#), [RO46A](#), and [RO46B](#)). The necessary legislative amendments to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, have now been made by Order<sup>1</sup> and approved by Parliament. The changes to the legislation came into force today (4 May 2016).

As a result of this change, from this date:

- Qualifications offered only in Northern Ireland will no longer be regulated by Ofqual;
- Qualifications offered only in Northern Ireland will be regulated by CCEA Regulation;
- Qualifications offered in England will continue to be regulated by Ofqual; and
- Qualifications offered in England and Northern Ireland will continue to be regulated by Ofqual and will now also be regulated by CCEA Regulation

Further information on the impact of the changes for awarding organisations is provided in [RO46A](#) and [RO46B](#). An annex to RO46A sets out a number of questions and answers for awarding organisations which we hope you found a useful resource.

We will continue to work with CCEA Regulation to minimise burden on awarding organisations and will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding setting out how we will work together in the future.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact us at [regulatory.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:regulatory.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> (Repeal of arrangements for vocational qualification awarded and authenticated in NI) Order 2016

If you have any questions about the qualifications that you offer in Northern Ireland you should contact CCEA Regulation at [accreditationunit@ccea.org.uk](mailto:accreditationunit@ccea.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Benson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

**Jeremy Benson**  
Executive Director for Vocational Qualifications