

Ofqual Board

Paper 06/17

Date:

May 2017

Title:

Vocational and Technical Qualifications Update

Report by:

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Paper for information

Open paper (some paragraphs closed)



Issue

1. This report provides an update on the work of the Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQ) Directorate since the last Board meeting, including a specific update on our progress with T Levels.

Recommendation

2. To note the issues raised in the report.

Vocational and Technical Qualifications update

3. This paper includes an update on the following key areas:
 - a. Regulation
 - b. Reform updates including:
 - Applied Generals
 - Functional Skills
 - T Levels (previously Technical Education Qualifications)
 - Apprenticeships
 - c. Strategic relationships

Regulation

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

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Reform

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Strategic Relationships

23. The Strategic Relationships team continues to build and manage relationships across the education sector and wider – initiating new contacts recently with the Federation of Small Businesses’ apprenticeships lead, the new communications team at the Institute for Apprenticeships and with Youth Employment UK who champion employment opportunities for young people. The team also welcomed colleagues from Qualifications Wales for an afternoon sharing information on vocational qualification reform – with a focus on understanding the approach to using a single qualification provider that is currently being adopted in Wales – and hosted another positive meeting with the Board from the Federation of Awarding Bodies.
24. The team also continues to support leadership team engagements – including recommending a series of meetings for the Chair with key individuals with an interest in the currently-developing T levels, and with some of the newly appointed members of the Institute for Apprenticeships Board. Several Ofqual representatives also attended the formal launch of the Institute for Apprenticeships in mid-April.
25. Our series of meetings with English and maths practitioner groups, which support our work to reform Functional Skills qualifications, have recently concluded. We have attended practitioner events organised by the Education and Training Foundation in Darlington and Manchester and an event run by the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service, to ensure we are gathering a wide range of views.
26. The fieldwork for our pilot survey of employer confidence in vocational qualifications was completed to schedule by Pye Tait, with the report set to be finalised internally towards the end of May.

Finance and Resource

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

Impact Assessments

Equality Analysis

28. No specific issues.

Risk Assessment

29. Our risk assessment will be informed by the strategic approach that we take to reform.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

30. No specific issues.

Timescale

31. Timescales for each area of work are set out above.

Communications

32. Nil.

Internal Stakeholders

33. All other Directorates have an interest in the work set out in this report.

External Stakeholders

34. We continue to build relationships with VTQ external stakeholders, as detailed in the Strategic Relationships section above.

Paper to be published	Yes (with some closed sections)
Publication date (if relevant)	N/A