



Education
Funding
Agency

From Regulation to Publication

The journey of qualifications for use by
young people

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The journey of qualifications for the use of young people

Introduction

- 1 This note describes the processes and organisations involved in a qualification's journey; from when a qualification is regulated, to acquiring approval under section 96 and finally being published on the Learning Aim Reference Application (LARA) with any eligible funding information, for the use by young people under the age of 19 years old.
- 2 This note and the processes detailed within should also be referred to for qualifications where awarding organisations have amended qualification data through Ofqual.
- 3 It includes:
 - a. A high level process diagram of a qualification's journey.
 - b. A visual aid providing step-by-step instructions on how to establish where a qualification is within a qualification's journey.
 - c. Contact details to obtain a status update on a qualification within a qualification's journey.

Audience

- 4 All further education stakeholders interested in publicly funded qualifications for delivery to young people under the age of 19 years old, particularly providers and awarding organisations.

Provision in Scope

- 5 This note relates to the journey of qualifications seeking public funding for the use by young people up to the age of 19 years old.
- 6 This note does not detail any contact information or processes associated with qualifications that are eligible for public funding for adult learners. For this information please read the corresponding document from the Skills Funding Agency available from http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/LAD_documents.htm
- 7 Where section 96 approval is sought for a qualification and EFA funding requested, then the awarding organisation should ensure that the following fields are selected in Ofqual's Regulatory Information Technology System (RITS):
 - Offered in England,
 - Funding in England.

Furthermore awarding organisations should ensure that the appropriate age category fields are completed accurately.

8 Awarding organisations should be aware that the *Review, Operational End and Certification End Dates* entered into Ofqual's RITS are used in other systems used by government and its funding agencies to avoid awarding organisations being asked repeatedly for the same data.

- Review Dates in RITS inform the Review Date field on the section 96 website and the corresponding Last Date for New Starts field populated by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in the LARA (where no operational end date has been set).
- Operational End Dates in RITS, once set, inform whether a qualification is shown on the section 96 approved list or the section 96 archived list in the section 96 website, as well as the Last Date for New Starts field populated by the EFA in the LARA.
- Certification End Dates in RITS inform the Certification End Date field in the section 96 website and the Effective To date field populated by the EFA in the LARA which indicates the last date for funding.

For further information regarding date fields, EU Services directive and RITS data, please contact Ofqual:

info@ofqual.gov.uk

9 For information on current section 96 approval criteria and the Department for Education (DfE) processes for approving new qualifications or amendments to existing qualifications, please refer to the DfE website:

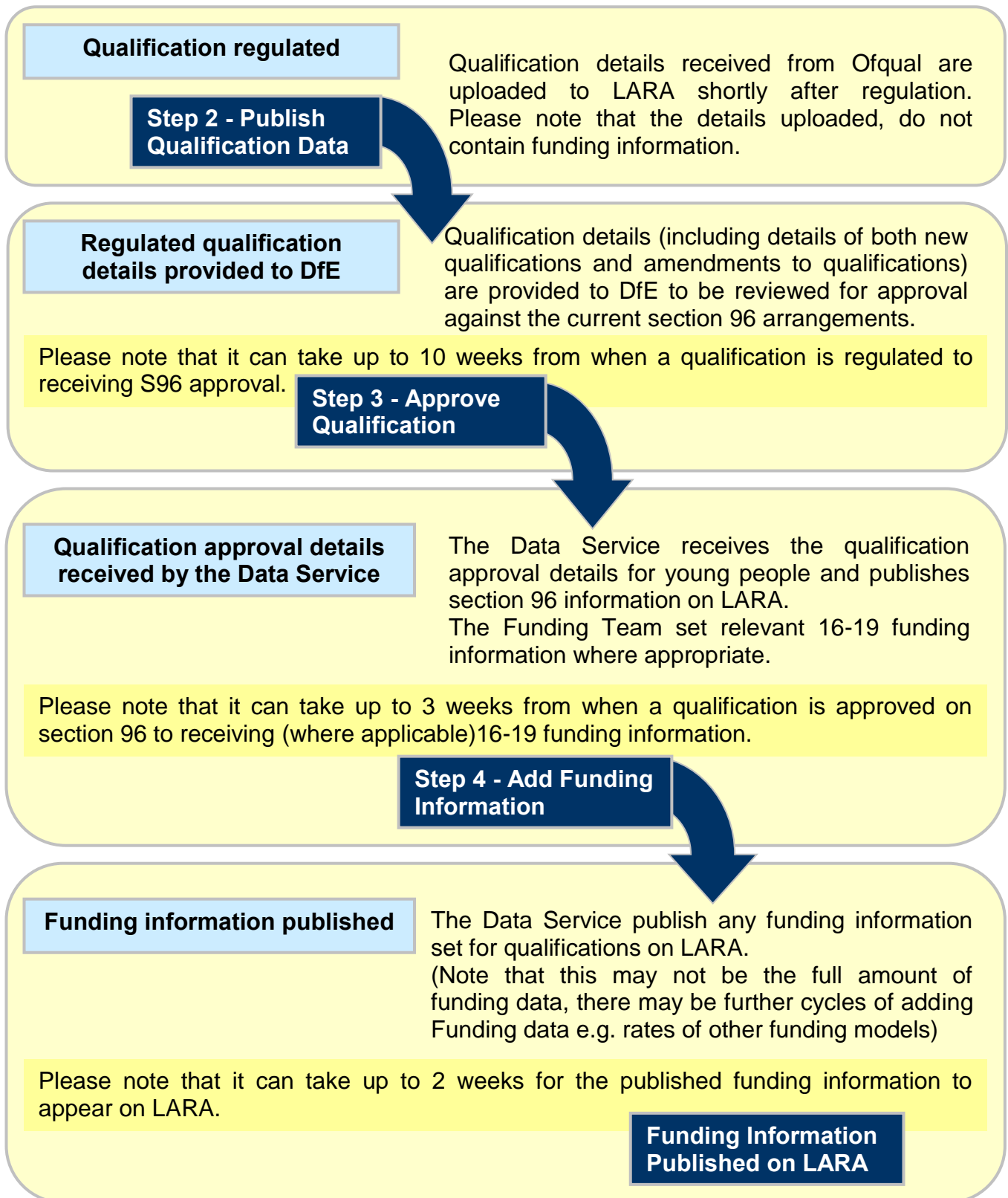
<http://www.education.gov.uk/section96/index.shtml>

10 Note that section 96 approval is not an indication of whether or not a qualification will be included in Key Stage 4 Performance Tables. From 2014, performance tables will be restricted to qualifications that are deemed to be high quality and rigorous, and will enable progression to a range of further study and employment opportunities for the majority of young people. More information about the process for considering qualifications for inclusion in performance tables and a list of qualifications that will count in tables in 2014 can be found on the DfE website here:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/qualifications/a00202523/reform-of-14-to-16-performance-tables>

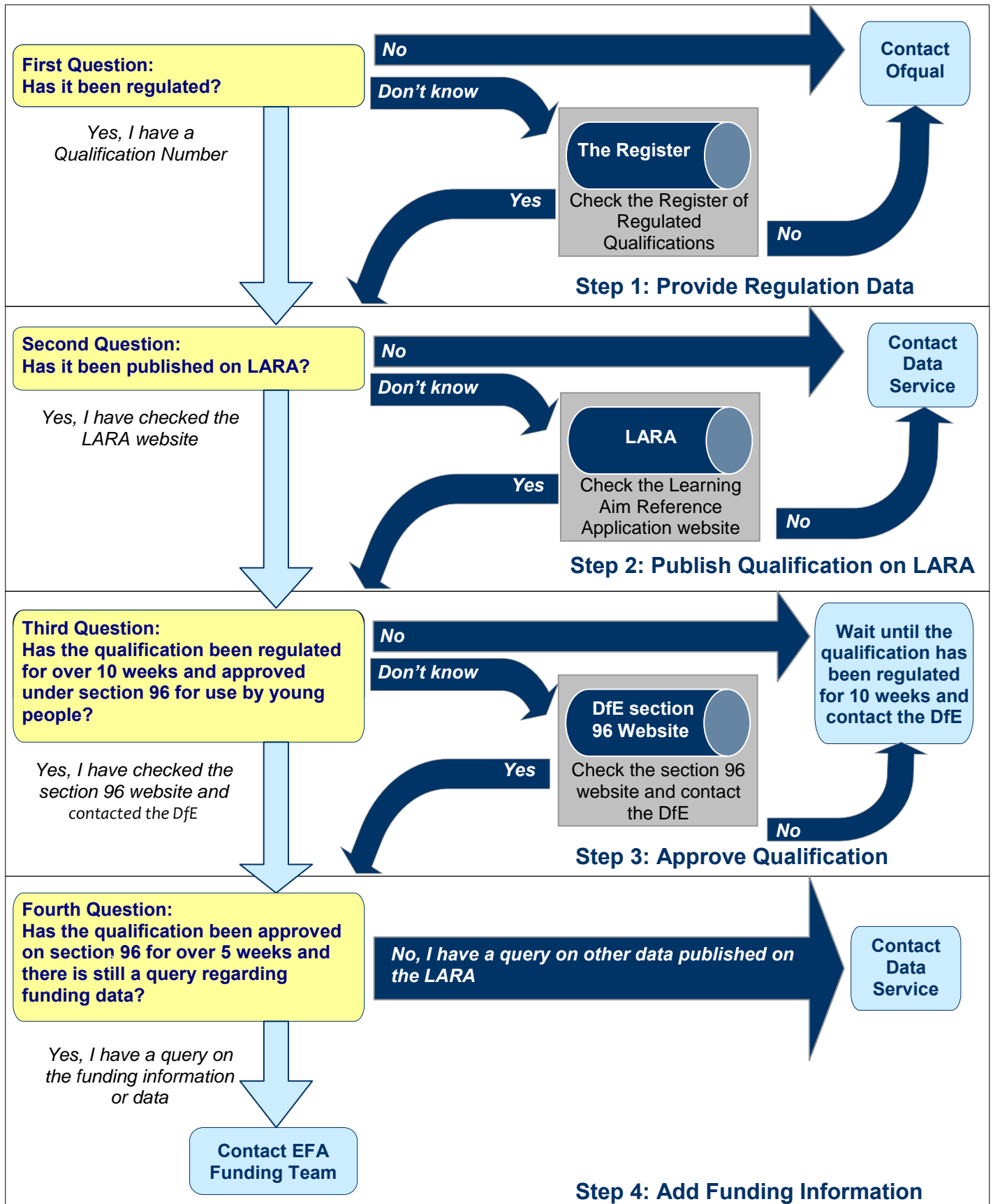
High level process diagram of the qualification journey

11 This is a high level representation, of the journey of qualifications for use by young people. Please note that it can take up to 15 weeks for a qualification to travel the complete qualification journey.



Visual aid providing step-by-step instructions

12 This is a visual aid providing step-by-step instructions, to enable the tracking of a qualification within the qualification journey, and which organisation to contact for additional information.



Contact details to obtain a status update

13 This section provides details of where to obtain information on the status of a qualification at each step of the process. Responses to all queries will be provided in a timely manner.

Step 1 Ofqual - Provide Regulation Data

To check whether a qualification has been regulated, use the following link:

[The Register of Regulated Qualifications](#)

If you have a specific query regarding Regulation, please e-mail Ofqual at:

info@ofqual.gov.uk

Step 2 Data Service - Publish Qualification on LARA

To check whether the qualification has been published on LARA, use the following link:

[Learning Aim Reference Application \(LARA\)](#)

If the qualification has been regulated, but is not showing on LARA, please e-mail the Data Service Service Desk at:

servicedesk@thedata.service.org.uk

If the qualification has been regulated and is showing on LARA, but without 16-19 funding values, please do not contact the Service Desk, but proceed to Step 3:

Step 3 Department of Education (DfE) - Approve Qualification on Section 96

To check whether a qualification is listed on the section 96 website, use the following link:

[Section 96 Qualifications](#)

To be fully assured that a qualification is section 96 approved for the relevant age categories, or if you have a specific query regarding section 96 approval, please contact the DfE at:

section96.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that it can take up to 6 weeks for a qualification to be processed and sent as a formal request to the DfE for section 96 approval. On a monthly basis, the DfE process both new qualifications and changes to qualifications for section 96 approval.

Therefore, it may take up to 10 weeks from when a qualification is regulated to receiving section 96 approval or for the section 96 website to update with any revisions to qualification data.

Step 4 Education Funding Agency (EFA) - Add Funding Information

If the qualification in question is showing on LARA and has been approved on section 96, but does not have 16-19 funding values on LARA, please e-mail the EFA Funding Team at:

fundingqueries.efa@education.gsi.gov.uk

For further guidance on EFA funding policy, use the following link:

[EFA Funding Guidance](#)

Please note, that it can take up to 5 weeks for a qualification that is eligible for EFA funding, to complete the final stage of the journey and be published on LARA with funding information.



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