

## Undertaking given by Pearson to Ofqual in accordance with Condition B8 of the General Conditions of Recognition, November 2012 ('the Conditions')

### Background

Education Development International plc. (EDI), a recognised awarding organisation offering regulated qualifications, was acquired by Pearson Education Ltd. (Pearson) in May 2012. At the same time the chairman and Governing body of Pearson also became the chairman and Governing body of EDI.

Both EDI and Pearson have informed Ofqual that their future intention is:

1. For Pearson to take ownership and responsibility of the existing EDI qualifications which will facilitate the integration of EDI qualifications with those of Pearson and ensure the responsibility of these qualifications will be taken forward by Pearson - thereby allowing the immediate surrender of EDI as an awarding organisation.
2. To review the qualifications currently awarded by EDI, so that at an appropriate time:
  - a. Qualifications which are unique to EDI will be reviewed and submitted under a Pearson brand, save for the withdrawal of those qualifications with low registration numbers
  - b. Qualifications currently awarded by both Pearson and EDI will be reviewed and in the main the EDI version will be withdrawn;
  - c. Current EDI qualifications awarded internationally under the brand LCCI will in the main be retained under a Pearson brand
  - d. Unused qualifications or those with low numbers not justifying their continuance will be withdrawn at the earliest opportunity.
3. To ensure that current EDI learners and centres offering EDI qualifications are not prejudiced
4. To ensure the effective operation of transition arrangements including the plan for both Pearson and EDI to move to a new IT registration system (subject to a suitable timescale) - currently planned for January 2014
5. To achieve full merger of operational arrangements within EDI and Pearson by seeking to Surrender Recognition for EDI.

EDI and Pearson have developed a transition plan under which new learners would not commence EDI qualifications after January 2014 and existing learners on EDI courses would be expected to have completed their qualifications by summer 2017.

Each qualification awarded by an awarding organisation is issued with a unique qualification number. Due to external funding arrangements, funding is provided for a specific qualification awarded by a specific awarding organisation and qualifications cannot simply be transferred between awarding organisations.

Ofqual has accepted that Pearson will offer its qualifications under a number of brands, including 'Pearson EDI' and 'Pearson LCCI'. In order to facilitate the integration of EDI within Pearson whilst maintaining the integrity of these qualifications Ofqual has transferred qualifications awarded by EDI to Pearson on its register ('RITS'), and for the purposes of learners completing EDI qualifications only, these shall continue under the interim brands 'Pearson EDI' and 'Pearson LCCI'.

## Undertaking

Pearson gives Ofqual the following undertaking under Condition B8, on the understanding that it is given in accordance with this Condition and will be binding on Pearson:

With effect from the date of this undertaking Pearson Education Limited will take ownership of the existing EDI qualifications (this includes all qualifications branded Pearson EDI or Pearson LCCI). and we will use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that:

- Pearson is compliant with the Conditions of Recognition in relation to those existing EDI qualifications at the point of transfer.
- Pearson has a plan for the management of the integration and longer term transition of qualifications and systems from EDI to Pearson
- Pearson will be the single awarding organisation and will be the point of accountability for any remaining EDI process until such time as the transition plan is completed.
- Pearson has included this plan as part of this undertaking Appendix A.

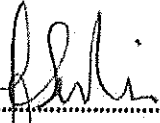
## The transfer plan

The transfer plan is attached at Appendix A. This covers the specific actions that we will take to ensure compliance with the Conditions and the timeframe in which this work will be completed. The plan provides undertakings in six keys areas:

- We will continue to review all operations, policies and processes to achieve compliance with Conditions A4.2, A4.3 and A4.4
- We will continue to review our capacity with regard to the development, delivery and award of qualifications to make sure that each assessment we set is fit for purpose and compliant with Conditions A5.1, A5.2, A5.3 and G1.1,
- We will continue to review our approach to malpractice and maladministration to make sure that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent any occurrence, and deal with it in a way that achieves compliance with Conditions A8.1, A8.2 and A8.6
- We will ensure that we have an individual appointed to act as a Responsible Officer for all Pearson qualifications under Condition B1.1
- We will continue to review our approach to our arrangements with centres under Condition C2
- We will review the qualifications currently awarded by EDI and withdraw those that have low numbers or that duplicate Pearson qualifications and resubmit the remainder under a Pearson brand

**Reporting**

We will report to Ofqual on progress against the transfer plan on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2013 and again on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 at which point the plan should be completed and we will be fully compliant with the Conditions. We will notify Ofqual as soon as practical in the event of any delay in implementation.

Signed.......... Dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013  
Lesley Davies  
Authorised person on behalf of Pearson