

11 April 2016

Dear Responsible Officer

## Programme of activity for the next 18-24 months

You will have received a copy of our corporate plan for 2016-19 setting out Ofqual's objectives for the next three years. The purpose of this letter is to tell you about the regulatory work that we propose to undertake during 2016-17 except that relating to GCSEs and A levels, which has been covered in a previous letter.

In most instances, the plan of work is thematic and involves a number of awarding organisations. Of course, we will continue to respond to specific intelligence, or evidence of risks or problems – so this plan will not cover everything we will do.

We will try to minimise the impact on you where possible, for example, by combining audit visits or timing work to avoid particularly busy operational periods. Before we start any activity, we will notify you of the methodology that was used to inform the plan of work, what information we may need from you, whether we will visit you and an indication of the timescales we will be working to. If you have evidence that our proposed timescales create unnecessary risk, please let us know at that point.

Area of activity	Period
Vocational and vocationally-related qualifications taken in schools and colleges, including those changed to meet new performance table requirements	
Audit of external verification processes	Completing March 2016
Technical evaluation of qualifications	July 2016 - September 2016
Membership bodies – scrutinizing management of conflicts of interest	
Audit of processes and resources	July 2016 – August 2016

Qualifications that meet Tier 4 Visa requirements	
Audit of processes and resources (arrangements with centres, malpractice and risk management)	April 2016 - July 2016
Follow-up activity following release of individual 'risk profiles'	
Audit (specific awarding organisations)	August 2016 – October 2016
Functional Skills	
Audit of processes and resources	Completing April 2016
'Life-cycle audits' – Autumn 2015/ Spring 2016/ Summer 2016	
Audit of processes and resources (qualification review)	2015 – June 2016
Audit of processes and resources (arrangements with centres) – <i>this will run concurrently with other planned audits</i>	May 2016 – July 2016
Audit of processes and resources (14-19 qualification development)	May 2016 – August 2016
Audit of processes and resources (Construction & Built Environment – arrangements with centres, delivery of assessment)	May 2016 – August 2017
Security sector	
Audit of processes and resources (follow up to current work)	January 2017 – February 2017
Statement of Compliance 2016 – follow-up	
Audit (specific awarding organisations)	November 2016 – February 2017

This programme of work is not exhaustive and the timings and other aspects of the programme may change.

I hope you find this helpful. Should you have any queries please do contact your usual Standards team contact.

Yours sincerely



**Jeremy Benson**  
Executive Director for Vocational Qualifications