



**Office of Qualifications and
Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)
Main Estimates 2016-17**

Memorandum to Education Select Committee



April 2016

Ofqual/16/5959

Contents

Introduction	3
Key activities and priorities	3
Departmental control totals	5
Ofqual Accounting Officer	6

Introduction

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Education Select Committee with additional information on the 2016-17 Main Estimate for Ofqual.

Key activities and priorities

As in previous years, we propose to deliver a comprehensive programme of work to fulfil our statutory objectives in 2016-17. We regulate so that qualifications are sufficiently valid and trusted. We make clear and considered judgements for the benefit of those who study, and rely on, regulated qualifications.

Our statutory objectives are:

1. To secure qualifications standards
2. To promote national assessment standards
3. To promote public confidence in regulated qualifications and National Assessment arrangements
4. To promote awareness of the range and benefits of regulated qualifications
5. To secure that regulated qualifications are provided efficiently

Our goals are the same as those we set in 2015, covering standards maintenance and reform in both general and vocational qualifications, as well as our own organisational development:

Goal 1: Regulating and reforming qualifications

Objective 1: Regulate for the validity of general qualifications throughout their lifecycle

Objective 2: Oversee the introduction of reformed qualifications

Objective 3: Evaluate the validity of National Assessments

Goal 2: Regulating vocational and other qualifications

Objective 4: Regulate for the validity of vocational and other qualifications throughout their lifecycle

Objective 5: Promote public confidence in regulated vocational qualifications

Goal 3: Developing our people, resources and systems

Objective 6: Build our capability and develop our people

Objective 7: Use our resources efficiently and effectively

More detail on our goals and objectives can be found in our Corporate Plan¹.

We are more than halfway through the reform programme covering GCSEs, AS and A levels. The government has major programmes to expand and reform apprenticeships, and also to create clear vocational progression routes, and to

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-corporate-plan-for-2016-to-2019>

reform functional skills qualifications. We continue to advise on the related assessment and qualifications issues.

The most visible aspects of our work in 2016 will remain reforms to GCSEs, AS and A levels qualifications and decisions associated with their introduction.

We created separate directorates for general and vocational qualifications in 2015, which have made sure we have not been overwhelmed by qualification reform, but have continued to cover all objectives in our plan.

Departmental control totals

The 2016-17 Main Estimates are summarised below with 2015-16 Supplementary Estimates for comparison:

	Main Estimates 2015-16 £m	Supplementary Estimates 2015-16 £m	Main Estimates 2016-17 £m	Increase/ (decrease) £m
Core Activities	16.1	16.1	15.7	(0.4)
Income	(6.3)	(0.3)	(0.1)	0.2
Reform of National Reference Test A Level and GCSE Reform	3.4	3.4	2.3	(1.1)
IT Transformation	2.1	2.1	1.5	(0.6)
Depreciation	0.5	0.5	0.2	(0.3)
	0.7	0.9	0	(0.9)
RESOURCE DEL	16.5	22.7	19.6	(3.1)
CAPITAL DEL	0	0	0	0
TOTAL DEL	16.5	22.7	19.6	(3.1)
NET CASH REQUIREMENT	15.8	21.8	19.5	(2.3)

The total Departmental Resource Limit (DEL) is £19.6 million, which is £3.1 million less than the 2015-16 Supplementary Estimate. The reduction is spread over all areas of the budget, with the main reduction relating to the development of the National Reference Test. This development phase will come to an end during 2016-17.

The 2006-17 Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) are based on the 2015 Spending Review settlement. The main difference between the 2015-16 Main Estimate and the Supplementary Estimate was £6 million of income for the reform of GCSEs, AS and A levels being changed to a budget transfer. This was a technical funding adjustment rather than a change in the level of expenditure.

Depreciation funding has reduced to a minimal £10k (below the rounding threshold for this memorandum) and is ring-fenced. Our assets are mostly fully depreciated.

We have no capital DEL in 2016-17.

We have no Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) in 2016-17.

Ofqual Accounting Officer

This memorandum has been prepared with reference to the guidance in the Estimates Manual published by HM Treasury.

The Accounting Officer retains personal responsibility for the content of the memorandum. Formal approval has therefore been obtained prior to submission to the Select Committee.