

FAO Awarding Organisations awarding qualifications in England and Northern Ireland

Office of Qualifications
and Examinations Regulation
Spring Place
Coventry Business Park
Herald Avenue
Coventry CV5 6UB

26 February 2016

Telephone 0300 303 3344
Textphone 0300 303 3345
public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofqual

Our Ref: RO46A/2016

Dear Responsible Officer

Changes to the regulation of vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland

As you will know from the letter sent by Ofqual and CCEA Regulation on 25 January 2016, ([RO45/2016](#)), the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in Northern Ireland intends to move to a single qualifications regulator, CCEA Regulation. DEL is working with the Department for Education in Westminster to make the required changes to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 by the end of April 2016, however this is subject to parliamentary process and timetabling.

Once the legislative changes take effect:

- Qualifications offered only in Northern Ireland will no longer be regulated by Ofqual;
- Qualifications offered only in Northern Ireland will be regulated by CCEA Regulation;
- Qualifications offered in England will continue to be regulated by Ofqual; and
- Qualifications offered in England and Northern Ireland will continue to be regulated by Ofqual and will now also be regulated by CCEA Regulation.

Following these changes, as an awarding organisation offering qualifications in England and Northern Ireland, you will continue to be regulated by Ofqual as a recognised awarding organisation. CCEA Regulation has confirmed that you will also be recognised by them to offer qualifications in Northern Ireland. CCEA Regulation is writing to you separately about your recognition for Northern Ireland.

Withdrawal of qualifications from Ofqual regulation

As set out above, when the law changes, the qualifications you make available only in Northern Ireland will no longer be regulated by Ofqual and will be regulated by CCEA Regulation. As you will be, in effect, withdrawing qualifications from Ofqual regulation, Condition D7 [Management of the withdrawal of qualifications] of our [General Conditions of Recognition](#) will apply. For the purposes of qualifications moving from Ofqual regulation to CCEA Regulation (and these purposes only), Ofqual will consider your obligations under Condition D7 to be met provided you make those who are likely to be affected by the withdrawal (see D7.4 b) aware that, on the relevant date, the qualification will move from Ofqual regulation to CCEA Regulation.

DEL and CCEA Regulation are arranging a webinar on 16 March at 10.00am that Ofqual will also attend. The webinar is an opportunity for the policy and operational issues arising from the change in regulation to be addressed. CCEA Regulation will write to you to provide registration details.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact regulatory.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Benson
Executive Director for Vocational Qualifications
Ofqual

Annex 1: Questions and answers for awarding organisations

Annex 1: Questions and answers for awarding organisations

1. Will AOs need to use a new IT system for CCEA Regulation?	No. CCEA Regulation and Ofqual have agreed to continue to use a shared IT platform and Register for the qualifications and AOs that they regulate.
2. What impact will these changes have on logo requirements for certificates?	<p>All AOs awarding qualifications in NI will have to have the CCEA Regulation logo on their certificates. There will be a 2 year time period for AOs to be compliant with this requirement.</p> <p>If a qualification is offered in NI and England, it must have the Ofqual logo as well as the CCEA Regulation logo.</p> <p>If a qualification is offered only in NI, it will require the CCEA Regulation logo only. If a qualification is no longer regulated by Ofqual, the certificate should not carry Ofqual's logo.</p> <p>See Ofqual's logo requirements on the Ofqual website.</p>
3. What will happen with Ofqual's current audit of NI AOs?	CCEA Regulation and Ofqual are working on a smooth transition of ongoing compliance and audit activities. This will include, where appropriate, a transfer to CCEA of relevant information held by Ofqual.
4. Your letter sent on 25 January (RO45) said you were aiming to do this by 1 April. Why has this date changed?	These changes are subject to parliamentary process and timetabling.
5. How and when will we know the exact date these changes are going to take place?	Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) will confirm the date the legislative

	<p>changes will take effect and this will be communicated to awarding organisations as soon as possible.</p>
--	--