

# Entry Level qualifications: removing unnecessary regulations

## Regulatory impact assessment



From August to October 2016 we consulted on proposals to withdraw a set of our regulations which apply only to Entry Level qualifications – the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’. This is our final regulatory impact assessment based on our proposals, consultation responses and final decisions.

We set out why we judged the regulatory requirements were not necessary for the effective regulation of qualifications at entry level and represented an unnecessary regulatory burden. We explained our view that they duplicated many of the requirements in our other regulations and, where they added further regulatory requirements, they could stop awarding organisations designing qualifications that would best meet users’ needs. We determined that the additional requirements set out in the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ could, therefore, have a detrimental effect on the validity of Entry Level qualifications and lead to extra costs for awarding organisations.

Overall, following our own assessment and considering the consultation responses, we judge that as well as removing a barrier to awarding organisations designing the most effective qualifications for their purpose the removal of the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ will also remove unnecessary regulatory burden. Awarding organisations will no longer need to manage the interaction between the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ and our ‘General Conditions of Recognition’. Because our removal of the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ does not force any change on valid qualifications it does not introduce any new costs onto awarding organisations.

If, following the removal of the criteria, awarding organisations choose to redevelop their qualifications and remove existing external assessment, this will not automatically reduce overall assessment costs. Assessment will still need to take place with appropriate controls from awarding organisations. We will keep such developments under review as part of our normal regulatory processes.

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