

19 July 2017

Our Ref: RO55/2017

Dear Responsible Officer

Suspending Total Qualification Time requirements for end-point-assessments

I wrote to you on 27 June 2017¹ setting out Ofqual's approach to regulating end-point-assessments (EPAs) for reformed ('standards') apprenticeships.

In that letter, I explained that we would be treating EPAs as a specific 'description of a qualification', and set out how an awarding body could apply to bring a particular EPA within its scope of recognition.

As with all other qualifications within the scope of your recognition, all our General Conditions of Recognition² will apply to the relevant EPA(s) as soon as we grant an application for expansion of recognition. Since EPAs are new qualifications, that would include our requirements related to Total Qualification Time (TQT).

Awarding bodies and Apprenticeship Assessment Organisations have raised a number of concerns about the appropriateness of the TQT requirements for EPAs. We need to consider these concerns in more detail, and will consult in due course on our proposed approach.

In the meantime, we have decided we will temporarily suspend the application of all our TQT requirements to EPAs. This will ensure that we do not place a potentially unnecessary regulatory burden on awarding bodies offering EPAs while we are still considering our position.

This means that the following Conditions do not apply to EPAs until further notice:

- General Condition E7

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulation-of-apprenticeship-end-point-assessments

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition

- General Conditions E3.2(l), E3.4(a) and E3.4(c).

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us at apprenticeships@ofqual.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Beach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Phil Beach

Executive Director for Vocational and Technical Qualifications