

Call for Evidence

Assuring the quality of centre-based assessment judgements in Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Frequently aspects of the delivery of vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) are delegated by awarding organisations to centres. By centres we mean organisations that undertake the delivery of an assessment or potentially other activities to learners on behalf of an awarding organisation. Centres are typically educational institutions, training providers, or employers. In particular, many VTQs rely on assessors in centres to make judgments of candidate performance against the assessment criteria. For some qualifications this may be the most valid way of assessing the combination of knowledge, skills and behaviours required.

Although they may delegate assessment judgments to centres, awarding organisations remain accountable for every qualification they award; for ensuring all results are accurate and issuing certificates only to learners who have a valid entitlement. This accountability, to make sure the same certificate means the same thing wherever and whenever the learner completed their training, allows employers and others to trust and rely on regulated qualifications.

Our rules therefore require awarding organisations to ensure that assessment judgements made by assessors in centres are accurate and consistent. We would like to improve our understanding of the full range of approaches used by awarding organisations to judge the quality of these judgements

We are now undertaking a review of the approaches used by awarding organisations to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre based assessment judgements in VTQs.

To help with this, we invite input from awarding organisations, centres and any other interested parties to inform our review. Specifically we would like you to tell us about:

- The processes used by awarding organisations to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre judgements of candidate performance against the assessment criteria
- The processes used by awarding organisations to adjust assessment decisions when centre judgements are inaccurate or inconsistent

We would also like to hear your views on:

- The benefits and risks of any approaches used by awarding organisations to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre judgements (and to adjust assessment decisions where necessary).
- Potential improvements to these approaches.

- What best practice and poor practice exists in the sector.

We are aware that awarding organisations use a variety of methods to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre judgements. Please feel free to discuss your experience of the full range of alternative approaches. We are interested in building up a detailed picture of practice across the sector and for a range of different qualification types.

All information submitted in response to this call for evidence will be used only to inform our review. This exercise is not designed to assess compliance with our rules. With this in mind, please do not identify specific awarding organisations in your response, even if you have a particular one in mind. Similarly, if you are responding on behalf of an awarding organisation we suggest you remain anonymous. All responses will be treated in confidence.

If you want us to look into a specific incident you should provide us with details using our [normal complaints or whistle-blower procedures](#).

Please respond to this call for evidence by **5pm on Friday 15th June**.

Questions

Profiling questions

Q1. Are you responding as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation or interest group?

- Individual (GO TO Q2)
- Organisation or interest group (GO TO Q3)

**Q2. Please state your role in the qualification system.
(TICK ALL THAT APPLY)**

- Teacher / lecturer / assessor
- Internal quality assurer / verifier
- External quality assurer / verifier
- Student
- Parent
- Awarding organisation employee
- Other (please specify)

Q3. Please indicate the type of organisation you are representing.

- Awarding organisation
- School or college

- Private training provider
- Employer or business representative group
- Professional association or union
- Equality organisation or group
- School, college or teacher representative group
- Other (Please specify)

Q4. In which sector does your experience of vocational or technical qualifications apply? (TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Health, Public Services and Care
- Science and Mathematics
- Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
- Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
- Information and Communication Technology
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise
- Leisure, Travel and Tourism
- Arts, Media and Publishing
- History, Philosophy and Theology
- Social Sciences
- Languages, Literature and Culture
- Education and Training
- Preparation for Life and Work
- Business, Administration and Law
- Other (please specify)
- Not applicable

Call for evidence questions

QUESTIONS FOR AOS

Q5. Please describe the processes you use to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre judgements of candidate performance against the assessment criteria

In your response please detail the methods you use to monitor centres' assessment decisions, your sampling strategies, and any other approaches you use to judge accuracy and consistency of centre judgements.

Q6. Please describe any processes you use to adjust assessment decisions when centre judgements are inaccurate or inconsistent

In your response please detail the reasons/criteria for making adjustments, the adjustment processes you use and any consequences of adjustments for centres or students.

QUESTIONS FOR ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Q Please describe your experience of the processes awarding organisations use to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre judgements of candidate performance against the assessment criteria

Q: Please describe your experience of any processes awarding organisations use to adjust assessment decisions when centre judgements are inaccurate or inconsistent

QUESTIONS FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Q7. What are the benefits of the approaches that you describe above?

Q8. What are the risks of the approaches that you describe above?

Q9. How do you think awarding organisations could improve the processes they use to judge the accuracy and consistency of centre based assessment judgements?

Q10. Can you provide us with examples of particularly good practice that you have experienced, related to how awarding organisations judge the accuracy and consistency of centre based assessment judgements?

Q11. Can you provide us with examples of poor practice that you have experienced, related to how awarding organisations judge the accuracy and consistency of centre based assessment judgements?

Q12. Do you have any other comments to make on the topics covered in this call for evidence?

Note- There is a word limit of 1500 (approx. 2-3 sides of A4) on each of the open response questions above.