

Removal of the regulations in ‘Criteria for entry level qualifications’

Department for Education – Ofqual

RPC rating: fit for purpose

Description of proposal

Ofqual’s predecessor, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, put in place the ‘Criteria for entry level qualifications’ regulations. Entry level qualifications recognise achievements below the lowest grades at GCSE. Ofqual has decided to remove these regulations taking into account the need for effective regulation and the burden they place on awarding organisations. The assessment states that many of the requirements on entry level qualifications are covered in other Ofqual regulations, in particular, the ‘*General Conditions of Recognition.*’ Ofqual states that this decision was supported by stakeholders at consultation, and may result in savings for awarding organisations.

Impacts of proposal

The assessment states that this measure will not impose additional costs on businesses; the removal of the criteria does not force any change to valid qualifications and existing requirements have been eliminated. Ofqual notes that the measure removes ‘*unnecessary regulatory burden*’ and thus the overall impact on business is beneficial. However, Ofqual believes that the benefit to organisations will be small as it does not expect all existing qualifications to change as a result. Ofqual feels that it could not determine which qualifications would change, to what extent and over what time-frame, without surveying them all. It regards this as disproportionate, and therefore does not attempt to monetise savings and other benefits.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of £0.0 million. This will be a qualifying regulatory provision that will score under the business impact target.

Quality of submission

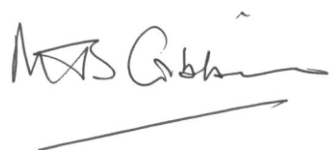
The assessment is clear and concise, and provides sufficient assurance to the RPC that the EANDCB of this measure rounds to zero. The measure does not impose any costs on business and is deregulatory. The inclusion of a table that sets out, clearly and briefly, all the changes, and their impacts, is especially useful.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.0 million
Business net present value	£0.0 million
Societal net present value	£0.0 million

RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	£0.0 million
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	£0.0 million
Small and micro business assessment	Not required



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.