

19 July 2018

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Our Ref: RO61/2018

Publication of revised General Conditions of Recognition and related statutory guidance.

Dear Responsible Officer,

We have today published a revised version of our General Conditions of Recognition and related guidance. This follows two consultations, firstly on our policy regarding the safeguarding of confidential assessment materials¹ and secondly on the specific rules and guidance we proposed to use to implement our policy.²

The revised Conditions and guidance will be in effect for all awarding organisations from 6 August 2018.

Our revised Conditions make explicit what was previously implicit regarding conflicts of interest and the confidentiality of assessment materials, and should not result in awarding organisations needing to make a significant change to the way they work. We recognise, however, that some awarding organisations will be introducing new safeguards to protect the confidentiality of assessment materials, in line with the new and revised guidance. The implications will be different for different types of qualification; for those for which the confidentiality of assessment materials is not a significant issue, the implications will be more limited. Each awarding organisation will need to consider the impact of the revised Conditions and guidance on their own qualifications.

We recognise that it may not be possible for some awarding organisations to quickly make all their planned changes to the way they produce assessment materials without introducing an unacceptable degree of risk to the safe delivery of qualifications. If we find that an awarding organisation is, or is likely to be, in breach

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-teacher-involvement-in-the-development-of-confidential-assessment-materials>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/rules-and-regulations-on-teacher-involvement-in-exam-development>

of one of the Conditions to which the new guidance relates, and has not had regard to that guidance, we will take into account the progress it has made and any plans it has to further revise its policies and practices when we decide whether to take any enforcement action.

Nevertheless, we expect that from 1 January 2020 all awarding organisations will be able to show they have had regard to the guidance and that their practices fully reflect this. Many awarding organisations should be able to achieve this more quickly.

We recognise that you might now be considering your statement of compliance for 2018. In view of the timing of their publication, and the fact that some awarding organisations have already submitted their statement of compliance for this year or are about to do so, you may disregard today's publication for the purposes of that return.

Kind regards,



Phil Beach

Executive Director for Vocational and
Technical Qualifications



Julie Swan

Executive Director for General
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