

20 July 2018

Office of Qualifications
and Examinations Regulation
Spring Place
Coventry Business Park
Herald Avenue
Coventry CV5 6UB

Our Ref **RO62/2018** follow up to RO60/2018

Telephone 0300 303 3344
Textphone 0300 303 3345
public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofqual

Information submitted for the Register of Regulated Qualifications – Qualification Type.

Dear Responsible Officer

We wrote to awarding organisations on 15 June 2018 outlining proposals to revise the list of qualification types available in the Portal, visible on the Register and against which we publicly report. We set out a revised list of qualification types with a timeline through which awarding organisations would be expected to review and, if necessary, amend the way their qualifications are categorised.

48 awarding organisations responded to our invitation to provide feedback, either with comments or to ask for clarification. We are now confirming our decisions.

Category fields

The feedback we received was generally supportive. In the main, awarding organisations agreed that the list of revised qualification ‘types’ and supporting information is likely to lead to greater consistency in the way qualifications are categorised.

We recognise however, that the use of the term ‘type’ to refer to qualifications with additional regulatory rules as well as more administrative groupings of qualifications is not ideal. As part of this exercise, therefore, we will distinguish between regulatory Types (qualifications with additional regulatory rules) and categories into which qualifications are sorted for convenience and clarity.

The Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT) (on behalf of 8 awarding organisations) proposed a new category for graded examinations in music, dance, and speech and drama qualifications.

We are minded to create a new category into which qualifications in performing arts subjects that use graded exams can be placed. We are persuaded there is a strong case for doing so. We propose to call this category “**performing arts graded examinations**”, the description for which is included in annex C.

For the avoidance of doubt, we are not proposing to create a new regulatory Type for these qualifications.

We intend to go ahead with the changes we had proposed with the addition of this new administrative category. We will write to all awarding organisations before 1 October to confirm the arrangements for performing arts graded examinations.

Timeline

We appreciate the timing we had originally suggested for awarding organisations to decide how to categorise their qualifications and then to make any changes on the Register would have been challenging for some. Having listened to feedback, we have amended the timescale.

- Awarding organisations will have from now until 30 September to consider how to categorise their qualifications. This is longer than we originally proposed.
- We will activate the new qualification categories on the Register on 1 October (rather than 17 August).
- Awarding organisations will then have four weeks in which to make any necessary changes to how their qualifications are categorised – until 31 October. This will enable us to use the revised categories in the final statistical report for the year.

Amendments to annexes

We have made some minor amendments to the descriptions for some of the categories. These are shown in the attached annexes. I now encourage you to start considering how your qualifications should be categorised.

Thank you for your help in improving how regulated qualifications can be described and understood.

Yours faithfully



Phil Beach

Executive Director of Vocational and Technical Qualifications

Annexes:

- A: timeline with details of steps awarding organisations are expected to take
- B: hierarchy of qualification categories – changes highlighted
- C: supporting information flowchart with category descriptions – changes highlighted
- D: list of qualification category changes