



Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Date

Wednesday, 15 April 2020

Attendees

Board

Susan Barratt	
Ian Bauckham	
Delroy Beverley	
Sally Collier	Chief Regulator
Mike Cresswell	
Lesley Davies	
Hywel Jones	
Dame Christine Ryan	
Roger Taylor	Chair
Matt Tee	
Mike Thompson	
Frances Wadsworth	

Ofqual

Phil Beach	Executive Director, Vocational and Technical Qualifications
Beth Black	Director of Research and Analysis
Niamh Field	Board Secretary
Daniel Gutteridge	Director of Legal
Michael Hanton	Director of Strategy and Markets
Matthew Humphrey	Director of Legal Moderation and Enforcement
Kate Keating	Director of Communications
Emma Leary	Associate Director, Policy for VTQs
Michelle Meadows	Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research
Sean Pearce	Chief Operating Officer
Natalie Prosser	Director of Operations for VTQs
Julie Swan	Executive Director, General Qualifications
Anona White	Private Secretary to the Chief Regulator

Observer

Cathy Oakes	Associate Director of Communications
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03/20 Welcome and apologies

There were no apologies.

There were no declarations of interest.

04/20 2020 Awarding: Vocational and Technical Qualifications

The Board considered the presentation which had been circulated to members the previous evening. The presentation outlined the proposed strategy for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQ) in response to Covid-19.

Board members were invited to consider the approach with regard to a permissive or prescriptive framework, a mixed economy of solutions, the hierarchy of principles, the minimum level of evidence and appeals. The Board agreed, following a series of assumptions proposed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), that wherever possible learners should receive a result that fairly reflected the work that they had put in and their potential level of attainment.

This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

Board members were invited to submit comments, if any, in writing to the VTQ team on the slides relating to adaptation.

ACTION: Board members

The Board agreed:

- i. The approach to appeals as outlined in slide 29 which would set out Ofqual's expectation to a consistent approach across all VTQs; and
- ii. To permit, not require, AOs to provide an autumn assessment series as outlined in slide 30.

The Board noted that Ofqual would not have the resource to oversee all approaches undertaken by AOs in response to the extraordinary regulatory framework. It was proposed that Ofqual would focus on Goal 2 and those Goal 3 qualifications that carried greatest risk such as licence to practice assessments. The Board supported this approach.

Consideration was given to international awards and ESOL. Ofqual would take a permissive approach to international awards to enable AOs to decide on the best approach. With regard to ESOL, Ofqual would defer the

decision to DfE given the requirement, in some cases, for use of visas. The Board supported this approach.

Given the time pressure to publish the consultation, the VTQ team would consider the Board's comments and suggestions and re-draft the document which would be shared in the first instance with the TAG. A further Emergency Board Meeting would be convened on 22 April 2020 to sign off the consultation document prior to publication.

ACTION: NF

05/20 2020 Awarding: General Qualifications

The draft consultation document entitled Exceptional arrangements in 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic had been updated following comments received from Board members.

This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

The Board commended the General Qualifications team on its work and speed to complete the consultation document. The final amendments would be made to the consultation document following the meeting and the section on early entries shared with Ian Bauckham and Hywel Jones. The final sign-off prior to publication had previously been delegated to the Chair and Chief Regulator at the Emergency Board Meeting on 1 April 2020.

06/20 2020 Awarding: Updated Strategic Risks

Consideration was given to the Updated Strategic Risk Register which would be discussed in detail at the forthcoming Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on 6 May 2020 and the next formal Board meeting on 17 June 2020.

This section has been redacted, as its publication would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

07/20 Any Other Business

A further Emergency Board Meeting would be scheduled on 22 April 2020 to finalise the VQT consultation document prior to publication. In addition, another extraordinary board meeting would be scheduled on 12 May 2020 to consider the responses to the GQ consultation.

ACTION: NF

The meeting ended at 10.55am.