



Minutes

Emergency Board Meeting

Time and venue

08.30am by Microsoft Teams

Date

Thursday, 07 January 2021

Attendees

Board

Susan Barratt	
Ian Bauckham	Interim Chair
Delroy Beverley	
Lesley Davies	
Hywel Jones	
Simon Lebus	Interim Chief Regulator
Catherine McClellan	
Dame Christine Ryan	
Matt Tee	
Mike Thompson	
Frances Wadsworth	

Ofqual

Beth Black	SRO 2021 Programme (VTQs)
Niamh Field	Board Secretary
Lorna Fitzjohn	Acting Executive Director, Vocational and Technical Qualifications
Richard Garrett	Director of Policy and Strategic Relationships
Daniel Gutteridge	Director of Legal
Michael Hanton	Director of Strategy and Markets
Cath Jadhav	SRO 2021 Programme (GQs)
Emma Leary	Associate Director, VTQ Policy
Andy Lester	Private Secretary to the Interim Chief Regulator
Michelle Meadows	Executive Director, Strategy, Risk and Research
Jane Parsons	Director of Communications
Sean Pearce	Chief Operating Officer
Julie Swan	Executive Director, General Qualifications
Lydia Waine	Associate Director, Legal Establishment

In attendance

Amanda Spielman	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Ofsted
Dame Glenys Stacey	Chair, 2021 Committee

167/20 Welcome and apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

Board members were reminded to notify Andy Lester, Private Secretary to the Interim Chief Regulator, should they be contacted by the media to comment upon the cancellation of summer 2021 exams and to forward any correspondence received.

168/20 Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

169/20 Update on the cancellation of exams 2021

The Chair updated the Board on the sequence of events following the Prime Minister's announcement on 04 January 2021 that it would not be possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. The Secretary of State (SoS) for Education confirmed on 06 January 2021 that exams would be cancelled.

In discussion, the Board supported the proposed approach for a joint consultation and supported separate simultaneous consultations for GQ and VTQ. The Interim Chief Regulator reported that Ofqual would raise a number of issues including the limitations of any teacher assessment approach, the need for any approach to work for private candidates, and the need for an appropriate appeals mechanism.

171/20 Awarding Vocational Qualifications in this academic year

The SRO for the VTQ 2021 Programme gave a presentation on the proposed VTQ and other General and alternative arrangements in 2021.

Consideration was given to Non-Exam Assessment and internal assessments, and where internal assessment could continue, it should do so in accordance with the principles of the Extraordinary Regulatory Framework. A permissive approach to VTQ and other Generals would be required with adaptations where possible for paper-based exams. It was anticipated that remote assessment would continue under the permissive approach. Whilst noting that the cancellation of exams was a matter for Ministers, the importance of Ofqual's advice to them in this area was noted.

The Board supported:

- i. The proposal for a joint consultation with DfE;
- ii. The mechanism for cancellation; and
- iii. Delegation of the method of assessment replacement to Awarding Organisations which Ofqual would monitor and oversee.

The Board noted the mechanisms available to secure compliance and consistency. The Board requested that further thought be given to the approach to be taken for those Awarding Organisations who presented the greatest risks and least effective approaches in 2020.

172/20 Any Other Business

There was no other business.