

14 July 2010

Managing the transition for funding of qualifications in the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) to qualifications in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

Registering Learners on the Cskills Awards Competence (NVQ) Qualifications in the QCF

As you are aware the Skills Funding Agency (Agency) has begun the process of focussing public funding on qualifications in the QCF. The Agency's website contains details of the transition process and confirms the NQF qualifications that will no longer be available for funding for new starts from 31st July 2010 in order to focus delivery on accredited and confirmed QCF provision (<http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/qcf-funding/implementation>). Details of the qualifications in the QCF that are accredited and have been confirmed for funding can be found on the Agency's website as well (<http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/qcf-funding/confirmationfunding>).

As part of the transition process Cskills Awards and the Agency have been in discussion around the Cskills Awards suite of QCF Competence (NVQ) qualifications. Although these have already been confirmed for public funding Cskills Awards intended operational start date of these qualifications is 1 September 2010.

Where a qualification is accredited and confirmed for funding, Cskills Awards has agreed that where providers wish to deliver the QCF qualifications in advance of 1 September, this will be supported. This means that new starts for NQF provision from Cskills Awards included in the NQF qualification list above will not be funded. Cskills Awards has discussed with Ofqual and agreed to bring forward the accreditation start date of its qualifications in the QCF to 1 August 2010 to ensure that learners who wish to start on the QCF provision can do so.

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In respect of arrangements for the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) for post 19 learners, providers will be able to record learners in learning on this suite of qualifications from 1 August 2010, by using the QCF Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN). The list of Cskills Awards QCF Competence (NVQ) qualifications confirmed for public funding through Train to Gain can be found on the Skills Funding Agency's website as indicated above.

The valid start date for Train to Gain funding values on the Learning Aim Database (LAD) will be amended in anticipation of any necessary changes submitted to Ofqual by Cskills Awards to adjust the accreditation start date for this suite of qualifications to 1 August 2010.

Cskills Awards will issue guidance for temporary registration from 1 August to 31 August 2010, using the Unique Learner Number (ULN) and a unique Cskills Awards issued number. This will cover the period until the electronic registration through Cskills Awards, Awards Online system for the QCF qualifications is fully operational. This is being done to support the Agency in its wish to see providers move to QCF provision when it is available and will allow the Agency to cease funding for new starts on NQF qualifications from 31 July 2010.

The Agency and Information Authority will also publish guidance in connection with this arrangement on the Information Authority's website.

This arrangement will allow providers to receive funding for learners undertaking learning and will not disadvantage learners from using the Cskills Awards Competence (NVQ) qualifications in advance of 1 September and will allow providers to undertake formal ILR returns reflecting the QCF qualifications in time for the return date of 6 September 2010.

Yours sincerely



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