To: All Awarding Bodies

18 November 2015

Dear Responsible Officer

**Qualifications and Credit Framework**

Following the withdrawal of the QCF in England, Qualifications Wales has considered the impact for Wales and wanted to notify you as soon as possible about our final decisions and when some of them will take effect.

Qualifications Wales was conscious of Ofqual's extensive consultation on this matter that took place prior to the establishment of Qualifications Wales as the regulator for Wales. The details of these consultations were therefore used as the basis for coming to our decision in order to provide awarding bodies with information as quickly as possible. In recognition of the importance of business continuity and considering the impact of regulatory burden on awarding bodies we have decided to implement the same changes to the Conditions of Recognition and supporting documents where suitable for Wales. A summary of the changes **applicable from 1 December 2015** and the variations from the Ofqual document have been outlined below.

Qualifications Wales has decided that:

- the applicable parts of the 'Regulatory arrangements for the Qualifications and Credit Framework' and the 'Operating rules for using the term 'NVQ' in a QCF qualification title August 2008' be removed from the Qualifications Wales list of regulatory documents.
- the General Conditions of Recognition should be updated to incorporate changes to qualification titling, qualification size, qualification level, qualification specifications, credit and recognition of prior learning.
- 'Qualification and Component Levels' should be added to the Qualifications Wales list of regulatory documents.

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In summary the changes are that:

- **Qualification levels.** Condition added that all qualifications should have a level that is reviewed and changed through a managed process. Level descriptors will be set out in two categories- ‘knowledge’ and ‘skills’ and will apply to vocational and general qualifications. The new level descriptors remove the QCF category of ‘autonomy and accountability’.
- **Qualification size.** Expressed as Total Qualification Time (TQT) and Guided Learning Hours (GLH). As a result of this change there are changes to the requirements, guidance and criteria about allocating and describing the size of a qualification.
- **Qualification specifications.** Conditions revised to ensure inclusion of TQT, credit and level and that they should be amended promptly if changed.
- **Titling.** Conditions revised to state that the qualification title should be changed if the level is amended. QCF should be removed from the qualification title by December 2017. Operating rules for using the term ‘NVQ’ in a QCF qualification title August 2008’ will also be removed.
- **Recognition of prior learning.** Condition included to state that where this occurs a policy must be written and applied.
- **Credit.** Where applied it should be calculated as TQT divided by 10.
- **Design rules.** Removal of the QCF qualification design rules as the General Conditions of Recognition already set requirements that regulated qualifications must meet in order to be valid and fit for purpose.

### Conditions of Recognition

Qualifications Wales will publish the Interim General Conditions of Recognition which will serve as our Standard Conditions of Recognition for the purposes of the Qualifications Wales Act. This will incorporate the March 2015 Welsh Government Conditions, the amendments on the creation of Qualifications Wales and the amendments as a result of the QCF. They have been referred to as “interim” as the Qualifications Wales regulatory strategy has been transitioned from Welsh Government and will be reviewed over the coming year. The same conditions as England have been adopted but minor amendments have been made to reflect Qualifications Wales terminology. Condition E9.6 amended to reflect the Qualifications Wales Act deadline of 31 December each year for withdrawing qualifications and additional definitions of award, certificate and diploma have been added.

### Total Qualification Time

Qualifications Wales will introduce the concept of Total Qualification Time in order to ensure consistency between qualification data and to reduce the regulatory burden on awarding bodies. We do not currently intend to publish the Total Qualification Criteria due to the focus on the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and the Education and Skills Act 2008 which are not applicable to Qualifications Wales. Condition E7.3 has been expanded to cover the requirement in the Ofqual criteria for recording and evidence for determining Total Qualification Time.

### Qualification and Component Levels

Qualifications Wales will introduce the revised descriptors and guidance issued by Ofqual to ensure consistency between qualification data. The guidance has minor changes to reflect Qualifications Wales terminology and to directly refer to the Credit and Qualifications

Framework for Wales (CQFW). Qualifications Wales has noted the feedback regarding the 'autonomy and accountability' section of the level descriptors and will consider the applicability of these concepts for different qualifications when establishing approval criteria in the future.

**Raising the Participation Age**

The criteria for determining relevance for raising the participation age was introduced in England to meet the requirements of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. As Qualifications Wales is not bound by the requirements of the Act this aspect will not be implemented.

**Implementation**

We have decided that from 1 December 2015 we will consider that inclusion of the term "QCF" in the title of a new qualification will be indicative of non-compliance with our titling rules. For existing qualifications, if the term QCF is not removed from the title on the database and in marketing materials by 31 December 2017 it will be seen as an indication of non-compliance with our titling rules. Qualifications Wales will remove "QCF" from the title of qualifications migrated to the Qualifications in Wales database (QiW). Students' certificates can of course continue to have QCF in the title of the qualification where they are awarded beyond 31 December 2017 if the term was in use in the qualification (and appearing on the Register) at the time they started it.

From 1 December 2015, the term NVQ should only be used in qualification titling if the qualification is based on recognised occupational standards, confers occupation competence and requires work-based assessment and/or assessment in an environment that simulates the workplace.

We will soon give notice to you when the requirements for all new qualifications to have a measure of size in conditions E3.2(l), E3.2(m), E3.4 and E3.5  E7.1 to E7.5 will come into effect.

Please note that these changes will only relate to qualifications regulated by Qualifications Wales.

The Interim General Conditions are available on the Qualifications Wales website at http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/monitoring-awarding-bodies/?lang=en

If you have any questions about the contents of this letter or any other aspects of the changes, please contact us at contact@qualificationswales.org. We would also welcome feedback on any unintended consequences of the withdrawal of the QCF so that we can proactively respond to issues raised.

Yours sincerely

Laura Porter

Head of Strategic Policy

At: Gyrff Dyfarnu

18 Tachwedd 2015

Annwyl Swyddog Cyfrifol

**Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)**

Yn dilyn dileu'r QCF yn Lloegr, mae Cymwysterau Cymru wedi ystyried yr effaith ar Gymru ac roeddem yn awyddus i roi gwybod i chi am ein penderfyniadau terfynol a phryd y byddant yn dod i rym cyn gynted â phosibl.

Roedd Cymwysterau Cymru yn ymwybodol o ymgynghoriad helaeth Ofqual ar y mater hwn, a gafodd ei gynnal cyn sefydlu Cymwysterau Cymru fel y rheoleiddiwr ar gyfer Cymru. O ganlyniad, defnyddiwyd manylion yr ymgynghoriadau hyn fel sail i ffurfio ein penderfyniad er mwyn darparu gwybodaeth i gyrff dyfarnu cyn gynted â phosibl. Er mwyn cydnabod pwysigrwydd parhad busnes ac ystyried effaith y baich rheoliadol ar gyrff dyfarnu, rydym wedi penderfynu rhoi'r un newidiadau ar waith ar yr Amodau Cydnabod a dogfennau ategol lle y bo'n berthnasol ar gyfer Cymru. Amlinellir crynodeb o'r newidiadau **sy'n berthnasol o 1 Rhagfyr 2015** a'r amrywiadau o ddogfen Ofqual isod.

Mae Cymwysterau Cymru wedi penderfynu ar y canlynol:

- caiff yr adrannau perthnasol o 'Regulatory arrangements for the Qualifications and Credit Framework' a 'Operating rules for using the term 'NVQ' in a QCF qualification title August 2008' eu dileu o restr ddogfennau rheoleiddiol Cymwysterau Cymru.
- dylid diweddaru'r Amodau Cydnabod Cyffredinol er mwyn ymgorffori'r newidiadau i deitlau cymwysterau, maint cymwysterau, lefel cymwysterau, manylebau cymwysterau, credyd a chydnabyddiaeth o ddysgu blaenorol.
- dylid ychwanegu 'Qualification and Component Levels' at restr dogfennau rheoleiddiol Cymwysterau Cymru.

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Yn gryno, mae'r newidiadau hyn yn effeithio ar y canlynol:

- **Lefelau Cymwysterau.** Ychwanegu amod y dylid pennu lefel ar gyfer pob cymhwyster a gaiff ei adolygu a'i newid drwy broses sydd wedi'i rheoli. Caiff disgrifiadau o lefelau eu gosod mewn dau gategori - 'gwybodaeth' a 'sgiliau', a byddant yn berthnasol i gymwysterau galwedigaethol a chyffredinol. Mae'r disgrifiadau lefel newydd yn dileu categori 'ymreolaeth ac atebolrwydd' y QCF.
- **Maint y cymhwyster.** Caiff hyn ei fynegi fel Cyfanswm yr Amser Cymhwyso ac Oriau Dysgu Tywysedig. O ganlyniad i'r newid hwn, mae newid i'r gofynion, y canllawiau a'r meini prawf sy'n ymwneud â dyrannu a disgrifio maint cymhwyster.
- **Manylebau cymwysterau.** Cafodd yr amodau eu hadolygu er mwyn sicrhau bod Cyfanswm Amser Cymhwyso, credyd a lefel yn cael eu cynnwys a'u bod yn cael eu diwygio'n brydlon os byddant yn newid.
- **Teitlau.** Cafodd yr amodau eu diwygio er mwyn nodi y dylid newid teitl y cymhwyster os caiff y lefel ei diwygio. Dylai enw'r QCF gael ei ddileu o deitl y cymhwyster erbyn mis Rhagfyr 2017. Caiff y ddogfen 'Operating rules for using the term 'NVQ' in a QCF qualification title August 2008' ei dileu hefyd.
- **Cydnabod dysgu blaenorol.** Cynnwys amod i nodi bod angen llunio polisi a'i rhoi ar waith pan fo hyn yn berthnasol.
- **Credyd.** Lle y bo'n berthnasol, dylid ei gyfrifo fel Cyfanswm yr Amser Cymhwyso wedi'i rannu â 10.
- **Rheolau dylunio.** Dileu rheolau dylunio cymwysterau'r QCF gan fod yr Amodau Cydnabod Cyffredinol eisoes yn nodi fod angen i gymwysterau rheoleiddiol fodloni gofynion er mwyn bod yn ddilys ac yn addas at y diben.

**Amodau Cydnabod**

Bydd Cymwysterau Cymru yn cyhoeddi'r Amodau Cydnabod Cyffredinol Dros Dro a fydd yn gweithredu fel ein Hamodau Cydnabod Safonol at ddibenion Deddf Cymwysterau Cymru. Bydd hyn yn ymgorffori Amodau Llywodraeth Cymru Mawrth 2015, y diwygiadau ar greu Cymwysterau Cymru a'r diwygiadau o ganlyniad i'r QCF.. Cyfeiriwyd atynt fel amodau "dros dro" gan fod strategaeth reoleiddiol Cymwysterau Cymru wedi'i throsglwyddo o Lywodraeth Cymru, a chaiff ei hadolygu yn ystod y flwyddyn sydd i ddod. Mabwysiadwyd yr un amodau â Lloegr ond gwnaed rhai mân welliannau er mwyn adlewyrchu terminoleg Cymwysterau Cymru. Cafodd amod E9.6 ei ddiwygio i adlewyrchu terfyn amser Deddf Cymwysterau Cymru ar 31 Rhagfyr bob blwyddyn ar gyfer dileu cymwysterau ac mae diffiniadau ychwanegol o ddyfarniadau, tystysgrifau a diplomâu wedi'u hychwanegu.

**Cyfanswm Amser Cymhwyso**

Bydd Cymwysterau Cymru yn cyflwyno'r cysyniad o Gyfanswm Amser Cymhwyso er mwyn sicrhau cysondeb rhwng data cymhwyso a lleihau'r baich rheoleiddiol ar gyrff dyfarnu. Ar hyn o bryd, nid ydym yn bwriadu cyhoeddi'r Meini Prawf Cyfanswm Cymhwyso oherwydd y ffocws ar Ddeddf Prentisiaethau, Sgiliau, Plant a Dysgu 2009 a Deddf Addysg a Sgiliau 2008, nad ydynt yn berthnasol i Gymwysterau Cymru. Cafodd amod E7.3 ei ymestyn i gwmpasu'r gofyniad ym meini prawf cofnodi Ofqual a thystiolaeth ar gyfer pennu Cyfanswm Amser Cymhwyso.

**Lefel y Cymhwyster a'r Elfen**

Bydd Cymwysterau Cymru yn cyflwyno'r disgrifiadau a'r canllawiau diwygiedig a gyhoeddwyd gan Ofqual er mwyn sicrhau cysondeb rhwng data cymhwyso. Mae'r canllawiau yn cynnwys

mân newidiadau er mwyn adlewyrchu terminoleg Cymwysterau Cymru a chyfeirio'n uniongyrchol at Fframwaith Credydau a Chymwysterau Cymru (FfCChC). Mae Cymwysterau Cymru wedi nodi'r adborth a gafwyd am adran 'ymreolaeth ac atebolrwydd' disgrifiadau lefelau a byddant yn ystyried cymhwysedd y cysyniadau hyn ar gyfer cymwysterau gwahanol wrth sefydlu meini prawf cymeradwyo yn y dyfodol.

**Codi'r Oed Cyfranogi**

Cafodd y meini prawf ar gyfer pennu perthnasedd ar gyfer codi'r oed cyfranogi ei gyflwyno yn Lloegr er mwyn bodloni gofynion Deddf Prentisiaethau, Sgiliau, Plant a Dysgu 2009. Gan nad yw Cymwysterau Cymru yn gaeth i ofynion y Ddeddf, ni chaiff yr agwedd hon ei rhoi ar waith.

**Gweithredu**

Rydym wedi penderfynu, o 1 Rhagfyr 2015, y bydd cynnwys y term "QCF" yn nheitl cymhwyster newydd yn nodi diffyg cydymffurfiaeth â'n rheolau o ran pennu teitlau. Oni chaiff y term QCF ei ddileu o deitl cymwysterau sy'n bodoli eisoes ar y gronfa ddata ac mewn deunyddiau marchnata erbyn 31 Rhagfyr 2017, caiff ei ystyried fel arwydd o ddiffyg cydymffurfiaeth â'n rheolau o ran pennu teitlau. Wrth gwrs, gall tystysgrifau myfyrwyr barhau i gynnwys QCF yn nheitl y dyfarniad pan gânt eu dyfarnu ar ôl 31 Rhagfyr 2017 os cafodd y term ei ddefnyddio ar yn y cymhwyster (a'i fod yn ymddangos ar y Gofrestr) pan wnaethant ddechrau'r cwrs.

O 1 Rhagfyr 2015, dim ond pan fydd cymhwyster yn seiliedig ar safonau sefydliadol cydnabyddedig, yn rhoi tystiolaeth o allu galwedigaethol ac yn galw am asesu yn y gweithle a/neu asesu mewn amgylchedd sy'n debyg i'r gweithle, y dylai'r term NVQ gael ei ddefnyddio yn nheitl cymhwyster.

Yn fuan, byddwn yn eich hysbysu pan ddaw'r gofynion i bob cymhwyster newydd gynnwys mesur o faint amodau  E3.2(l), E3.2(m), E3.4 ac E3.5  E7.1 i E7.5 i rym.

Noder mai i gymwysterau a gaiff eu rheoleiddio gan Cymwysterau Cymru yn unig y bydd y newidiadau hyn yn berthnasol.

Mae'r Amodau Cyffredinol Dros Dro ar gael ar wefan Cymwysterau Cymru yn http://qualificationswales.org/regulation/monitoring-awarding-bodies/?lang=cy.

Os bydd gennych unrhyw gwestiynau am gynnwys y llythyr hwn neu unrhyw agweddau eraill ar y newidiadau, cysylltwch â ni yn contact@qualificationswales.org. Byddem hefyd yn croesawu adborth ar unrhyw effeithiau anfwriadol o ddileu'r QCF fel y gallwn fynd ati'n rhagweithiol i ymateb i'r materion a godir.

Yn gywir

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Pennaeth Polisi Strategol