



Dear Responsible Officers

## **Amendments to the Standard Conditions of Recognition**

Following feedback from awarding bodies or clarification of processes, Qualifications Wales is revising the Standard Conditions of Recognition, in accordance with Schedule 3, paragraph 3 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015. These amendments are described in greater detail below and will come into force from the date of this letter.

### **Amendment to Condition G4.2**

Qualifications Wales is amending condition G4.2(b) in light of feedback that the wording of the condition was overly prescriptive and did not reflect changes in the processes relating to CPD events. The amendment takes these factors into account whilst still retaining the flexibility of the original wording which had been put in place due to small-scale entry subjects or to Welsh-medium events. Qualifications Wales consulted with the Federation of Awarding Bodies who sought views from the FAB/JCQ Wales Advisory Group on the proposed changes. The feedback received was supportive of the proposed change and noted that the amended condition would be less restrictive and potentially allow for increased flexibility.

The amended wording (additions in bold) will read 'where persons hold information in relation to the content of assessment materials or other information about the assessment of a qualification and disclosure of such information to teachers would breach the confidentiality referred to in condition G4.1, ensure **that sufficient controls are in place to ensure that no such disclosure or breach occurs.**'

### **Removal of Conditions I4.3 and B2.6**

Condition I4.3 required awarding bodies to not issue a certificate for an approved form of a qualification outside of Wales, including, by reference of the approval number. Condition I4.3 has been replaced by conditions D9.1 and D9.2 which are outlined in



further detail below. Qualifications Wales no longer requires awarding bodies to report on how they conduct face-to-face meetings with centres/teachers in the previous 12 months in their annual statement of compliance, which had previously been required under condition B2.6.

### **Inclusion of two new Conditions D9.1 and D9.2**

The new condition D9.1 states ‘Where an awarding body awards a qualification approved by Qualifications Wales to learners assessed wholly or mainly outside of Wales, and where the Qualifications Wales qualification approval number and logo is used on certificates and other materials, the qualification certificate and other materials must include the following statement “Qualifications Wales regulates this qualification where it is awarded to learners assessed wholly or mainly in Wales.” Qualifications Wales considers it appropriate to permit awarding bodies to refer to the approval number and logo of Qualifications Wales, provided that the use of the approval number and logo in such circumstances does not mislead persons into believing that Qualifications Wales regulates the award of a qualification where the learner is not assessed wholly or mainly in Wales.

Under the new condition D9.2, which states ‘Where data is used to provide an aggregate statistical context for the award of a qualification approved by Qualifications Wales, this shall be based on candidates assessed wholly or mainly in Wales’, Qualification Wales’ approval of a form of qualification only applies to its award in Wales by the body concerned. Given Qualifications Wales’ statutory remit and the scope of approval, it requires the awarding body to only consider data pertaining to learners in Wales in the determination of the award of approved qualifications in Wales.

The new conditions take effect from 1 May 2016 and apply to all approved qualifications awarded from this date.

### **Minor amendments**

Other minor amendments have been made to the Standard Conditions of Recognition including deletion of references to the Database of Approved Qualifications in Wales and the Regulatory IT System to reflect that they are no longer applicable in Wales. The definition of the Qualifications Wales Approval/Designation Number has also been simplified to state ‘The number assigned by Qualifications Wales to the qualification’.

Condition D7.1(f) has been amended to read (additions in bold) ‘(where a qualification is designated) **transitional arrangements may be implemented where withdrawal of approval or revocation of designation is made on the basis that the qualification concerned has become a restricted priority qualification.**’ This will enable registered learners to complete their qualification and may mean that existing forms of the qualification continue following the determination of a restriction for the

purposes of enabling learners to complete their qualification. Such arrangements will have a clearly defined end date and will not be available to new learner registrations.

Condition I3.1.1 has also been amended to reflect that the previous wording referred was out of date and now reads 'An awarding body must ensure that the design and production of each certificate it issues in relation to a regulated qualification or credit award which it makes available includes the Qualifications Wales logo clearly and distinctly expressed on the front of the certificate'.

Please get in touch should you need any further clarification on this topic.

Yours sincerely

Philip Blaker