

# Qualifications Wales

## Well-Being of Future Generations Statement and Objectives



### Introduction

Qualifications Wales is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body established to regulate qualifications, other than degrees, taken by learners in Wales.

Although we are not currently subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (FG Act), we consider that our role supports its purpose, and that its requirements are compatible with how we work. Therefore, we have voluntarily chosen to adopt the provisions of the Act to underpin how we deliver our functions.

The FG Act requires public sector bodies to carry out sustainable development which it defines as:

“the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.”

Welsh Government statutory guidance clarifies that this means considering sustainable development as a central organising principle, i.e. in what we do; in how we do it; and in how we communicate the difference we are making.

It is natural for us to work in this way, as education necessarily requires a long-term view. We also work collaboratively, because we are one part of the whole education system in Wales.

Under the FG Act, public bodies have a duty to maximise their contribution to seven well-being goals, and to set and publish supporting objectives, reporting progress annually.

Welsh Government statutory guidance also makes clear that this duty means adopting the following ways of working:

- Looking to the long term, so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- Taking an integrated approach, so that public bodies look at the well-being goals in deciding on their own priorities;
- Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them;
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared, sustainable solutions;
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring again.



Our work is underpinned by our values:

- **Collaborative** in the way that we work
- **Thoughtful** in the approaches we take
- **Positive** in our outlook
- **Learning** from experience and others

These values place both collaboration, and decisions based on considered evidence, at the heart of our behaviours.

We care about qualifications because we understand the difference that good education makes to long-term life chances, and the importance of being able to demonstrate achievement through robust and meaningful qualifications.

## How we impact the well-being of Wales

In considering whether we need additional objectives we have looked at how we already have a positive impact on the well-being of Wales and what more we can do.

### As a regulator:

Our Strategy outlines how we regulate and explains the eight matters that we must consider in our work, many of which support long-term sustainable development. It also describes our approach to working with stakeholders and decision-making, which align to the 'ways of working' covered in the Welsh Government statutory guidance.

#### Extract from QW Strategy

*First and foremost, we are a regulator, established through legislation. Our core purpose is set out within Part 2 of the Qualifications Wales Act (2015)<sup>1</sup>, which specifies our principal aims and, therefore, our mission:*

***'ensuring that qualifications, and the qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales; and promoting public confidence in qualifications and the Welsh qualification system.'***

*In doing this we will:*

- *Be mindful of<sup>1</sup>:*



- *growth in the economy;*
- *the Welsh language;*
- *the range and nature of qualifications and their assessment arrangements;*
- *the needs of employers, higher education and the professions;*
- *the currency of content;*
- *consistency with qualifications elsewhere;*
- *efficiency and value for money;*
- *roles and responsibilities of those within the qualification system.*
- *Work in the long-term interests of learners and the public good;*
- *Set priorities that provide the most impact and use our limited resources to best effect;*
- *Act transparently;*
- *Take proportionate actions, and be aware of the intended – and unintended – consequences of our actions, decisions and advice for the qualification and education system in Wales;*
- *Ensure that our approaches are consistent;*
- *Welcome representations from all stakeholders;*
- *Consider the impact that we have on public confidence;*
- *Be decisive and act when needed.*

*Our role is broader than that of a conventional qualifications regulator. For example, we have powers to commission new qualifications and to restrict the range of qualifications offered, and we support Welsh-language assessment and the qualification system through the issue of grants. As we have a particular interest in the potential for innovation within qualifications and the qualification system to meet future requirements, we both seek opportunities ourselves, and wish to be supportive of awarding bodies when they innovate.*

Our biggest potential impact is on economic prosperity. As one part of the education system in Wales, our work has a clear role in helping learners progress and develop skills for employment, thereby improving overall prosperity and economic growth.

The statement made in 2016 by Andreas Schleicher, Director Education at OECD – “your education system today is your economy tomorrow” – demonstrates the importance of education for long-term prosperity.

We regulate to safeguard the quality and portability of qualifications in Wales. We also have powers to shape content of qualifications: we set the criteria that awarding bodies are required meet in the development of qualifications, and we have the powers to commission the

development of qualifications. In this way, we can consider how well qualifications meet the needs of employers and further and higher education establishments and take action to ensure improvement where required.



We consider that in delivering our regulatory outcomes, we are supporting the FG Act. We have mapped these against the well-being objectives.

**As an advisor and partner in the Wales qualifications system** - we work collaboratively with many other organisations, including other partners in the education system, the awarding bodies that we regulate, and the qualifications regulators in other parts of the UK. As an independent body, the research and analysis that we carry out and the advice that we provide informs Ministers, officials and other organisations that are involved in developing or setting education policy, delivering education services or teaching learners.

**As an organisation and employer** - we directly impact the well-being of our staff - through our staff policies, our culture, and the working environment that we provide. We recognise that we have a role to play in our local community. We also recognise the potential we have to influence suppliers and grant recipients through how we commit our £4m annual non-pay expenditure.

Having considered these roles we have set out four additional Well-being objectives to maximise our contribution . These are:

**Supporting employers** – we will align our strategies for vocational and general qualifications to the future skills needs of Wales. Through vocational sector reviews, we will ensure that qualifications support the development of the knowledge and skills that employers in Wales require – both now and in the future.

**Supporting our workforce** – we will provide a working environment and support a culture that encourages healthy staff lifestyles and long-term well-being.

**Qualifications content** – where we commission or introduce new qualifications, we will consider whether there is benefit in encouraging awarding bodies to incorporate knowledge and understanding of sustainable development.

**Collaboration** – we will work with partners across the public sector, both to support the qualifications system and to make use of opportunities for greater efficiency or effectiveness.

## Mapping of our regulatory outcomes and our Well-being Objectives

Our Qualifications Wales Strategy includes our regulatory outcomes, and is supported by strategies for VQ and GQ and corporate capability. We have mapped our regulatory outcomes and our well-being objectives against the Well-being Goals laid out below.



Well-being Goal	Description
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including action on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work,
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resistance and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

## Regulatory outcomes

Our purpose is met when **regulated qualifications taken in Wales are trusted and valued by learners, employers and education providers and are recognised throughout the UK and internationally.**



Regulatory outcomes (mapped)	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Culture & Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
Regulated qualifications taken by learners in Wales are valid, reliable and awarded to an appropriate standard.	x						
Regulated qualifications in Wales are inclusive and promote equality of opportunity for learners.				x	x		
Regulated qualifications and the qualification system are responsive to changing needs and circumstances, particularly in regard to the long-term benefit of Wales and its learners.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Regulation is proportionate, transparent, consistent and targeted, to support a qualification system that is sustainable in the long term.	x						
Appropriate governance is in place to ensure accountability and regulatory compliance							
Information reasonably required to deliver consistent and quality-assured regulated qualifications is available and accessible.							

This mapping shows that we consider we have the greatest positive impact through our objectives to support a 'prosperous Wales', but we have the widest spread of impact through our work to ensure that qualifications and the system are responsive to changing needs.

**Corporate Well-being objectives** - We have also set four additional Well-Being objectives which we have also mapped. These are delivered through our VQ and GQ strategies and our Corporate Capability Strategy  
<http://qualificationswales.org/english/about-us/strategies-and-plans/qualifications-wales-strategy/>



Corporate Well-being Objectives (mapped)	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive Communities	Culture & Welsh Language	Globally Responsible
<b>Supporting employers</b> – we will align our strategies for vocational and general qualifications to the future skills needs of Wales. Through vocational sector reviews, we will ensure that qualifications support the development of the knowledge and skills employers in Wales require – both now and in the future.	x						
<b>Supporting our workforce</b> – we will provide a working environment and support a culture that encourages healthy staff lifestyles and long-term well-being.	x		x				
<b>Qualifications content</b> - where appropriate, we will use our powers to encourage awarding bodies to incorporate knowledge and understanding of sustainable development into their qualifications.		x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Collaboration</b> – we work with partners across the public sector, both to support the qualifications system and to make use of opportunities for greater efficiency or effectiveness.	x						

This mapping shows that we consider we have the greatest positive impact through our objectives to support a ‘prosperous Wales’, but we have the widest spread of impact through our work to encourage appropriate qualifications content.