



QUALIFICATIONS WALES

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST AND FORWARD LOOK

This document contains the Priority Qualifications List, which is jointly prepared by Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Government. It also contains Qualifications Wales' Forward Look.

The Priority Qualifications List is reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Ministers and is updated as necessary to include qualifications for which there are new approval criteria, and/or restrictions imposed (or under consideration for restriction) and to reflect the end of any priority approval periods. Those qualifications whose priority approval period end date has expired will be moved to the unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval periods section of this document.

The Forward Look is also reviewed regularly by Qualifications Wales to ensure it continues to give awarding bodies notice of possible future priorities. The Forward Look is published within this document appearing below (but not as part of) the Priority Qualifications List.

PRIORITY QUALIFICATIONS LIST

Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Ministers have prepared the Priority Qualifications List in exercise of their powers under section 13 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 (duty to prepare list of priority qualifications).

Qualifications Wales may approve qualifications that have been designed to meet the needs of learners in Wales. The Priority Qualifications List is a list of the qualifications for which Qualifications Wales has published approval criteria, or for which qualifications are under consideration of restriction and in respect of which it must, under section 18 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, consider any applications for approval from appropriately recognised awarding bodies. Qualifications on this list will only be approved if they meet the published approval criteria. Approved status is not an indicator of the relative importance of a qualification.



Qualifications Wales will consider for approval qualifications that are not on the Priority Qualifications List if there are published approval criteria, however the approval of qualifications that are on the Priority Qualifications List will be of higher priority.

Qualifications Wales may also designate qualifications. Both approved and designated qualifications are provided by recognised awarding bodies and are eligible for use on publicly-funded programmes of learning for learners under the age of 19. Designated qualifications are not necessarily unique to Wales and are usually available to learners in other countries of the UK. Qualifications Wales will work with recognised bodies in relation to applications for the designation of qualifications not on the Priority Qualifications List.

Qualifications Wales has published the [Priority Qualifications List Policy](#), which provides more detail of how the Priority Qualifications List is managed.

Restricted priority qualifications

Qualifications Wales may apply a restriction to limit the number of forms of a qualification that may be approved at any time. This section contains two parts. Part 1 relates to those qualifications where Qualifications Wales has an intention to restrict. Representations in response to the notification to restrict will be considered before any determination to restrict is published. Determinations to restrict are indicated in Part 2.

Part 1 - Intentions to restrict

Qualifications Wales proposes to restrict the following descriptions of qualifications to **one form each**:

Foundation qualification in Construction

Foundation qualification in Building Services

Progression qualification in Construction

Progression qualification in Building Services

Apprenticeship qualification in Construction

Apprenticeship qualification in Building Services



The notification to restrict as required by Section 14 of the Act can be found at Annex A of the Priority Qualifications List.

Part 2 - Determinations to restrict

Qualifications Wales has restricted the following descriptions of qualifications:

Please note, the titles of some Health and Social Care and Child Care qualifications have been amended since the publication of the last PQL.

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (single award)

GCSE Health and Social Care, and Childcare (double award)¹

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Core

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts

Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

Level 2 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

GCE A level and AS in Health and Social Care, and Childcare²

Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care: Principles and Contexts

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory

Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)

Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care

¹ The GCSE single and double award were previously identified as Level 1/2: Introduction to Health, Social Care and Child Care - Principles and Contexts

² the A level, L3 Diploma in Health and Social Care, and Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice and Theory qualifications together replace the two Level 3 knowledge qualifications identified in the previous List as "Principles, Theories and Contexts"



Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development

Level 5 Leadership and Management of Health and Social Care: Practice

Level 5 Leadership and Management of Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development: Practice

Level 4 Health and Social Care with specialism

Level 4 Children's Care, Play, Learning and Development with specialism



Unrestricted qualifications with expired priority approval periods

The priority approval periods for the following qualifications have expired. These qualifications continue to have current approval criteria and may be considered for approval.

GCSEs

Geography
French
German
Spanish
Music
Science suite
Drama
Physical Education
History
Food and Nutrition
Religious Studies
Art and Design
Business
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Media Studies
Welsh (second language)

AS and A levels

Welsh (second language)
Drama
Music
Physical Education
Geography
French
German
Spanish
Religious Studies
Design and Technology
Further Mathematics
Government and Politics
Law
Mathematics
Media Studies

The qualifications listed on the Priority Qualifications List were jointly agreed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Qualifications Wales and published on **5 July 2018**.



FORWARD LOOK

The Forward Look describes the qualifications that Qualifications Wales is considering for inclusion on the Priority Qualifications List in the future. The Forward Look enables Qualifications Wales to give awarding bodies notice of future priorities and to enable the development of appropriate approval criteria by Qualifications Wales.

The inclusion of qualifications or descriptions of qualifications in the Forward Look is not a guarantee that they will be included in a future Priority Qualifications List. Similarly, a qualification or description of qualification may be included in a future Priority Qualifications List without first appearing on the Forward Look.

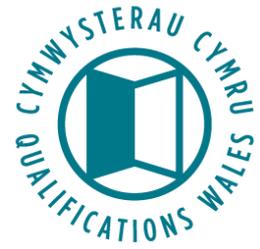
The regulation of vocational qualifications is an important element of Qualifications Wales' work. In order to make the regulation of vocational qualifications more manageable and effective, we are adopting a sectoral approach to the review of qualifications. The next sector to be reviewed are Information and Communications Technology and Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy. One of the outcomes of these reviews may be the inclusion of Information and Communications Technology and/or Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy qualifications on the Priority Qualifications List in the future.

This list is not exhaustive and further subjects may be added.

We are considering listing, once approval criteria has been developed:

One or more GCSEs in a Construction related subject

One or more GCE A levels in a Construction related subject.



ANNEX A: NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO RESTRICT CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications Wales is required under Section 14 of the Qualifications Wales Act to notify each recognised body and any other person that Qualifications Wales considers might reasonably be expected to have an interest of the proposal to restrict. The subject, rationale, supporting evidence and arrangements for the proposed restriction can be found below. Qualifications Wales will consider representations on this proposal received by **3 August 2018** prior to issuing a determination of restriction.

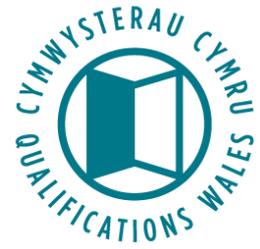
Qualifications Wales proposes to restrict the following descriptions of qualifications to **one form each**:

- Foundation qualification in Construction
- Foundation qualification in Building Services
- Progression qualification in Construction
- Progression qualification in Building Services
- Apprenticeship qualification in Construction
- Apprenticeship qualification in Building Services

Qualifications Wales may vary the titles and/or include title endorsements to these qualification descriptions prior to the publication of approval criteria.

A list of the qualifications that may be impacted by the proposed restriction can be found on our website. Should we proceed with the restriction awarding bodies (or other interested parties) will be able to provide justification as to why certain qualifications should not be listed or to suggest further qualifications that should be added.

Rationale for the proposed restriction:



Between October 2016 and February 2018, Qualifications Wales carried out a review of the qualifications in the Construction and Built Environment sector (the "Review"), the findings of which were published in the report: 'Building the Future'. A consultation on the approach to the development of a new suite of qualifications ran from 8 February to 13 April 2018. The restriction is proposed in furtherance of our Principal Aims and in order to:

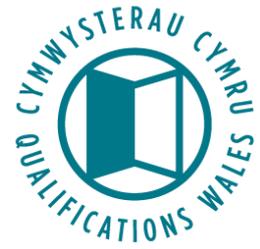
Enable us to exercise choice between different awarding bodies through a process of fair and open competition, to identify an awarding body to take forward the development of these new qualifications; and to

- Avoid inconsistency between different forms of the same qualification, enabling all learners to be assessed using the same assessment methodology thereby ensuring greater consistency.

This process of restriction and commissioning also has the benefits of enabling us to:

- Prescribe requirements with regard to the provision of Welsh-medium assessment, continuing professional development for learning providers and to enable resources to be focussed on a smaller number of qualifications.
- Ensure that qualification pathways are more cohesive and easier for learners, employers and centres to understand.
- Place a greater emphasis on core, interpersonal and problem-solving skills, traditional building skills and materials, modern building skills and materials, progression from further education into apprenticeships and the development of on-the-job skills.
- Better meet the needs of the range of employers in Wales, large and small, and across mainstream and specialist trades.
- Increase the likelihood that it is commercially viable for an awarding body to develop new qualifications that meet the needs of Wales.

Supporting evidence for the proposed restriction:



- The Review identified issues with qualifications in the Construction and the Built Environment sector and proposed the development of a new suite of qualifications for Construction and Built Environment learners in Wales in further education and apprenticeships, with a target date for first teaching of September 2020 or September 2021. We have opted for September 2021 to ensure that sufficient time is provided for development and for the management of change. The Review included an extensive programme of stakeholder engagement, including interviews and discussions with sector bodies, learning providers, employers and learners.
- In February 2018 we launched a consultation on these proposals. In total, 33 responses were received; a summary report of the responses and a table of our comments on these are available on our [website](#). Of respondents who stated a preference, 85% were in support of imposing a restriction on FE provision and 67% of respondents who stated a preference were in support of imposing a restriction on Apprenticeship provision in the Construction and Built Environment Sector.
- Qualifications Wales is satisfied that, having regard to the principal aims of Qualifications Wales it is desirable to restrict the number of forms of qualifications taken by learners on publicly funded courses in further education and in apprenticeships in construction and the built environment to a maximum number of either one or two for each of the restricted qualifications and allowing for as many trade-specific endorsements as are required.

Arrangements for the proposed restriction:

Before making a determination to restrict Qualifications Wales must consider any representations made to it in respect of the proposal. Interested parties have until **3 August 2018**, in which to make representations in response to this notification to restrict.

Representations should be made to constructionreview@qualificationswales.org



Proposed restriction:	To restrict the qualifications aforementioned to a single service provider or a consortium of providers.
Proposed restriction method:	Commissioning route
Proposed restriction period:	5-7 years
Deadline for representations on the proposed restriction:	3 August 2018

Indicative high level timescales:

Activities	Indicative Dates
Engage on Subject Content developed for new qualifications by Qualifications Wales in collaboration with sector bodies and subject experts	August 2018 - July 2019
Pre-Tender engagement	August 2018 - September 2018
Contract notice published	End of October 2018
Award contract	June 2019
Awarding bodies develop qualifications in consultation with stakeholders	From July 2019
Qualifications Wales develop, consult and publish Approval Criteria	August 2019 -March 2020
Qualifications go through Approval Process	April 2020 - October 2020
First teaching of new qualifications	September 2021
Operational end date (enrolment ends)	Proposed 31 August 2026/2028
Certification end date	Proposed 31 August 2029/2031