

The Examiner

Welcome to this issue of **The Examiner**, Qualifications Wales' e-newsletter for awarding bodies. We publish the newsletter every two months, with a round-up of news and useful information to keep you up-to-date with our activities.

If you have any suggestions for future content, we'd like to hear from you.

Please e-mail comms@qualificationswales.org with your ideas.

A date for the diary: Awarding Bodies' Forum 2019

This year's Awarding Bodies' Forum will be held on **Tuesday 10 December**, at the Marriott Hotel in Cardiff. The event is your chance to network, learn more about regulation and reform developments in Wales, and give us feedback. We'll be sending invitations out soon, but in the meantime, please save the date.



2019 Statement of Compliance: an update

Online submission – technical issues

Due to technical issues, the 2019 Statement of Compliance is still not accessible via the QiW database (as at 13 June). We're working hard to resolve these issues, and we'd like to thank you for your patience during this time.

To avoid unnecessary delays to awarding bodies gathering evidence for this year's submission, we have sent an email to all responsible officers, outlining the 2019 lines of inquiry. To make a declaration of non-compliance, you will need to follow the same process as last year. You should declare non-compliance with each applicable sub-condition, and upload an action plan outlining the steps you propose to take to return to compliance for each sub-condition, along with timeframes for completion.

Condition H2

We've received some queries from awarding bodies regarding our expectations for reporting compliance against Condition H2 in this year's statement of compliance, following the advice given by Ofqual.

We are not requiring awarding bodies to declare non-compliance with Condition H2 this year on the basis of whether they use Direct Claim Status (DCS). Our approach remains as it has been in previous years. That is, if an awarding body does not believe it has effective quality assurance measures in place for decisions that are made by centres, then it should declare non-compliance.

We understand that some awarding bodies may prefer to state the same issues of non-compliance in the statements they submit to all regulators. Therefore, they may report non-compliance to us against H2 and note 'DCS' as the reason. Where this happens, we will not require the awarding body to complete an action plan, and we will not follow up the declaration of non-compliance for H2.

We will be considering the outcomes of the Ofqual consultation before we decide which changes may be required to our Standard Conditions of Recognition. If you have any further queries regarding the above, please contact statementofcompliance@qualificationswales.org

Curriculum thinking for the future

The new Curriculum for Wales will be introduced from 2022, which means we're thinking ahead to the future qualifications offer at 14-16. We are considering the purpose of qualifications and how they could fit with the curriculum, and will launch our first consultation in the autumn. There will also be a range of other consultations as thinking develops, including technical aspects.

As part of this work, we will look at the relationship between designated and approved qualifications, and the need for bilingual provision to match growing demand in Wales. You can keep up to date with our thinking on the curriculum area of our [website](#).

Recent correspondence and publications

[Letter to Responsible Officers regarding Statement of Compliance 2019](#) (24 May 2019)

[Report on the Monitoring of Food Safety Qualifications in Wales](#) (23 May 2019)

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Contact us:

comms@qualificationswales.org