

Qualifications Identified for Full Level 2 Repeats – SSC/SSB Briefing

Version 2, 27th March 2009

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Background

1. As part of the flexibilities within Train to Gain, funding for repeat Level 2 qualifications have been identified by SSCs and sector bodies through the submission of the Sector Qualification Strategies (SQS) Action Plan Templates. Those qualifications which meet the 'full' Level 2 criteria and therefore eligible for the new flexibilities within Train to Gain are listed in the document "Qualifications Identified for Full Level 2 Repeats" and this briefing note should be read in conjunction with this document.
2. The [LSC's 2008/2009 Funding Guidance](#) states that a level 2 is a qualification equivalent in standard and breadth to 5 GCSEs at grades A* to C, irrespective of when or where the qualification was achieved).
3. This flexibility is restricted to qualifications identified by you as Sector Skills Councils or sector bodies. This is not intended to be long list, but to focus funding on those qualifications where a repeat has most impact on the sector in meeting its skills needs and where this flexibility in Train to Gain has most value.
4. The definition of a 'repeat qualification' is outlined within the '[Train to Gain Additional Flexibilities 08/08: A Guide for Colleges and Training Providers](#) (dated 10th December 2008)' where by employees are able to access fully funded training for some 'additional' (sometimes referred to as 'repeat' or 'second') level 2 qualifications where they already have a level 2 qualification or higher.

Eligibility for Full Level 2 Qualifications as Repeats

5. Qualifications listed by you as SSCs and sector bodies represent the solution to key skills needs for your sector, and Train to Gain will position these as priority for your sector. However, all qualifications on the list will be available to employers and learners in any sector, subject to availability of places and meeting other Train to Gain eligibility criteria.
6. The qualifications that you identify as suitable for funding as repeat should be based on robust evidence of need and be clearly identified in your SQS using the categories as outlined within Annex A.
7. Only qualifications meeting current Train to Gain eligibility for funding as a first full qualification are eligible as a repeat.

8. As outlined within the document '[Train to Gain Additional Flexibilities 2008/2009: A Guide for Colleges and Training Providers](#),' "additional qualifications can be second, third or subsequent qualifications.
9. Up to 30% of level 2 qualifications delivered through Train to Gain in each region can be additional level 2 qualifications." For SME's there are no limits on the volumes of repeat qualifications.
10. Funding rates and assumptions for repeat qualifications are the same as for first qualifications:
 - For mainstream Train to Gain funding full level 2 qualifications are fully funded for first and repeat where provision is available.
 - For mainstream Train to Gain full level 3 qualifications there is an assumed employer contribution of 42.5 % for first and repeat in 2008/2009.
 - In areas where there is availability of ESF funding for repeat qualifications, current contractual arrangements apply and the LSC will review what is available through ESF in line with changes to Train to Gain. For further information please contact your usual LSC regional contact.
 - In addition First level 3s for Jumpers and those aged 19-24 are fully funded

Updating the List / Amendments

11. LSC National Office are the change owners of this list, and will amend the repeat level 2 list to on all occasions.
12. The repeat list will be updated at the end of each calendar month, unless an urgent request has been received.
13. The LSC will only update the list on the advice of you as Sector Skills Councils or specific sector bodies in relation to qualifications for delivery within their footprint **only** and for the specific purposes set out below:
 - As part of the preparation for the LSC's business cycle and /or in response to any formal revision of the SQS
 - Update the list when qualifications expire and advise of replacement qualification/s where appropriate.
 - Ad hoc, on the launch of each Sector Compact if additional qualifications are added to the list of repeats specifically to meet the objectives set out within the compact.
 - Any change as a result of the SQS Action Plan templates as they are submitted with suitable rationale statements to support prioritisation and need.
 - Any change to the status of a qualification following the transfer from NQF into QCF (where this is the case, the qualification must be already included within the SQS Action Plan template)

14. It is your responsibility to inform the LSC of any changes to qualifications as set out above.
15. SSC's should submit any changes to Rebecca.Rhodes@lsc.gov.uk, we expect these changes to remain reflective of your SQS Action Plan or for a revised SQS Action Plan to be submitted. Annex A sets out the process for updating and amending the list.
16. On receipt of any updates, the LSC will undertake the following checks to ensure that the qualification put forward for proposal as an additional qualification is eligible for LSC funding:
 - Does the SQS Action Plan submission include this qualification and is it flagged as a qualification to be suitable for repeats as a priority qualification for the sector (see Annex A).
 - That the LSC's Learning Aims Database (LAD) lists the qualification as current provision and that it is a full qualification.
 - That the accreditation end date is not within the academic year and if so we will seek advice to confirm that an extension has been applied for that a new qualification will be made available within this time.
 - That where appropriate, qualifications included in a Sector Compact are also included within this list.

SME Flexibilities

17. John Denham's announcement on 21st October 2008 outlined funding of £350million to support training for SME's.
18. As outlined within the [Train to Gain Additional Flexibilities 2008/2009: A Guide for Colleges and Training Providers](#), all eligibility rules for full Level 2 qualifications remain as set out in the core Train to Gain offer. This includes a restriction of eligible additional qualifications to the list agreed with Sector Skills Councils through Sector Qualification Strategies and/or Sector Compact arrangements.
19. For eligible SME organisations however there is no longer any constraint in terms of volumes of eligible additional Level 2 qualifications that can be delivered to eligible SMEs and their employees and the 30% limit for additional Level 2 qualifications no longer applies to delivery to these groups.

Next Steps

20. The LSC is considering the process to include other sector bodies and SSB's which have not yet produced an SQS Action Plan, and how to include these cross cutting skills within the repeats list and will share information as soon as possible.

Further information

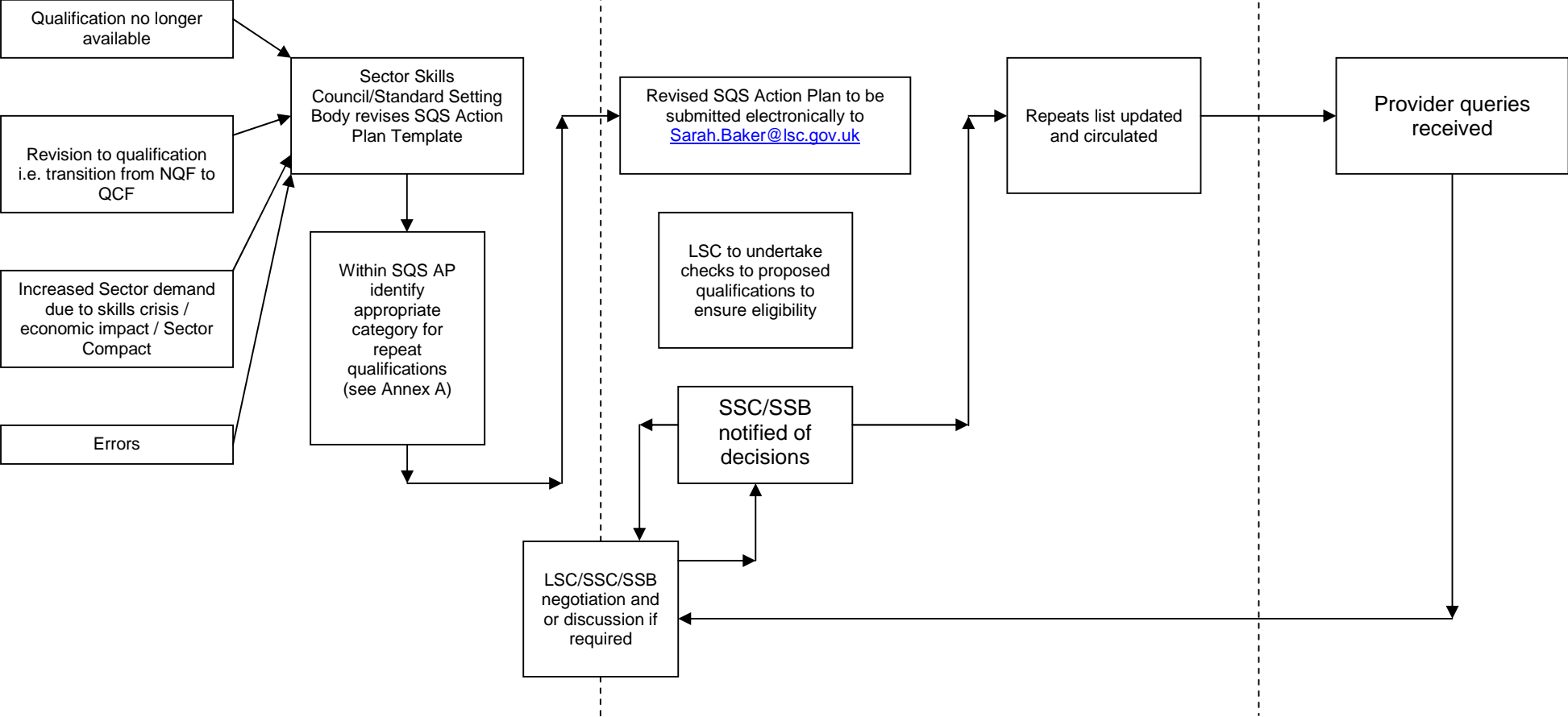
21. A Frequently Asked Questions document has also been developed and can be accessed by [clicking here](#).
22. All future updates to the list will be circulated via the external Train to Gain website as well as electronically circulated to the distribution list of SSC SQS contacts which the LSC holds. Any amendment to these contacts should be sent to Rebecca.Rhodes@lsc.gov.uk.
23. Any queries received by the LSC from providers will be redirected to the appropriate SSC to seek their advice.
24. Any queries should be directed to Rebecca.Rhodes@lsc.gov.uk in the first instance.

Annex A: Process flow for amendments/updates to those qualifications eligible for repeat level 2's

SSC

LSC

Provider



ANNEX B: Categories to identify repeat qualifications:

1. General Sub / Sector Growth (Nationally – across all regions) resulting in predicted growth in demand over and above current baseline
2. Statutory / Legislative requirement / response
3. Skills crisis in an occupational area leading to a need to protect or expand provision.
4. Regional Sector / Sub Sector Growth (within a range of Regions) resulting predicted growth in demand over and above current baseline
5. New skills to be acquired in the sector and therefore increase in supply and demand
6. Niche Qualification (less than 100 per year) but essential to the Sector.
7. Other (SSC to define)