

**Funding Approvals  
Process: Ofqual's  
Regulatory Requirements**

**Date: July 2011**

## Background and introduction

1. From 18 July 2011 Ofqual's new General Conditions of Recognition (published in May 2011) apply to all recognised awarding organisations. The General Conditions of Recognition can be found on Ofqual's website ([www.ofqual.gov.uk](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk)).
2. The application of the new conditions are resulting in the removal of some previous Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) regulatory arrangements in order to avoid overlap between the conditions and arrangements.
3. Ofqual have written to all Sector Skills Councils (SSCs), Sector Skills Bodies (SSBs) and to unit and Rules of Combination (RoC) submitters clarifying where areas of the QCF regulatory arrangements will no longer apply. This includes Part 6 of the QCF regulatory arrangements and therefore removes the provision in the arrangements for a qualification to be 'approved of' by an SSC where the qualification falls within an SSC footprint.

## Purpose

4. Alongside Ofqual's letter on the removal of some areas of the QCF arrangements, this short statement clarifies the Agency's position with regard to the process for confirming QCF vocational qualifications for public funding for post 19 learners in England.

## Qualification Funding Confirmation Process

5. The Skills Funding Agency remains committed to focus funding on vocational qualifications in the QCF. Current funding policy for post 19 learners in England encourages awarding organisations to seek SSC support for their qualifications.
6. However, as part of the ongoing reform of the further education and adult skills sector in England which the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is leading on, the Agency is planning to introduce a simpler funding system. In this context, the Agency will review the current process on how vocational qualifications are approved to be eligible for public funding. The outcomes of this review are expected to be set alongside the publication of the annual Skills Investment Strategy later this year.
7. If you have any queries with regard to this short statement and the review of the process on how vocational qualifications are approved to be eligible for public funding for post 19 learners in England please email these to:  
[servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk](mailto:servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk)

## **Skills Funding Agency**

Cheylesmore House  
Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT  
T 0845 377 5000  
F 024 7682 3675

[www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency](http://www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency)



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