

Funding for replacement qualifications for GNVQ successors

8 December 2010

Background

Paragraph 21 of the *YPLA Funding Guidance 2010/11: Rates and Formula* states that:

SLN for the aims in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) that will replace GNVQ successors have also been considered, and the YPLA has agreed that for setting replacement aims' SLN the standard methodology will be followed, using the recommended glh. Based on their current recommended glh, the replacement aims will have a lower SLN glh than the SLN glh for GNVQ successors.

GNVQ successors include a number of qualifications in the BTEC suite, specifically BTEC Introductory, First and National Awards, Certificates and Diplomas.

Edexcel appealed to the YPLA to review this decision, and in response the YPLA has carried out further research into the necessary glh for the efficient delivery of effective provision of these qualifications. On the basis of this research, the YPLA made proposals to the Technical Funding Advisory Group for exceptional changes to the funding rates for certain GNVQ successor replacement qualifications in 2010/11 only.

Funding Implications

It is important to note that the specific rates for any replacement learning aims of any type, including GNVQ successors, were not taken into account when setting 2010/11 allocations. Therefore whilst any changes made to 2010/11 rates will impact on providers' outturn in 2010/11, no change will be made to their funding allocation.

The 2010/11 outturn will potentially, subject to policy changes, affect providers' 2012/13 allocations. Additionally, the YPLA may choose to make adjustments to 2012/13 allocations where there are issues of fairness and equity across similar qualifications.

A small group of providers will make further recommendations to the YPLA on funding for GNVQ successor replacement and other similar qualifications from all awarding organisations in 2011/12 and beyond. The decisions will be published early in 2011, in line with the YPLA's publication of other funding rate changes.

Edexcel BTEC L1 qualifications (QCF) – no change

These qualifications are included in the Foundation Learning catalogue, and Edexcel have confirmed that as they were developed to meet Foundation Learning criteria they are not direct or equivalent replacements for NQF aims.

Furthermore, they have variable recommended glh rather than multiples of 60 based on the GNVQ structure, and do not always fit into the existing 3/6/12/18-unit groups. Therefore the recommended guided learning hours are the most accurate and appropriate basis for funding rates at present.

Edexcel BTEC L2 Certificates (QCF) – no change

The BTEC L2 Certificate is not a direct or equivalent replacement for an NQF aim, and therefore the recommended guided learning hours are the most accurate and appropriate basis for funding rates at present.

BTEC L2 Extended Certificates (QCF) – no change

Extended Certificates are direct replacements for First Certificates, which are unlisted. However, the analysis from the annual review of funding rates (derived from data returned in providers' Individualised Learner Records) shows that there is a high degree of consistency in the delivery time for First Certificates. This supports the current funding rate based on the recommended glh.

BTEC L2 Diplomas (QCF) – change to 450 SLN glh

These Level 2 Diplomas are direct replacements for First Diplomas. The data returned by providers on actual delivery shows that it is more appropriate to fund them at the same rate as their predecessor qualifications, until there is sufficient evidence on their own delivery to recommend a change.

BTEC L3 Subsidiary Diplomas (QCF) – change to 450 SLN glh

These Level 3 Subsidiary Diplomas are direct replacements for National Awards. The data returned by providers on actual delivery shows that it is more appropriate to fund them at the same rate as their predecessor qualifications, until there is sufficient evidence on their own delivery to recommend a change.

BTEC L3 Diplomas (QCF) – no change

While these qualifications are direct replacements for Edexcel L3 National Certificates, the data returned by providers on actual delivery shows that the funding rate based on the recommended glh is more appropriate than the funding rate for the National Certificates.

BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (QCF) – no change

There is no difference in the funding rates and recommended glh for National Diplomas and their replacement Extended Diplomas. The funding rate was aligned with the recommended glh (1080) following recommendations from the 2008/09 review of rates, and the WAGLH data continues to support this.

OCR National Diplomas – no change

OCR National Diplomas have not been replaced by QCF qualifications, therefore they continue to be funded at 900 SLN glh, while the Edexcel QCF qualifications of the same recommended glh are funded at that level, 720 SLN glh. The YPLA will consider the funding rate for these qualifications, and may make appropriate changes to remove this discrepancy in 2011/12.

Summary of changes

NQF	QCF			
		Recommended glh	Initial 10/11 Funding Rate	Revised 10/11 Funding Rate
<i>no NQF equivalent</i>	BTEC Award (L1)	variable glh	as per recommended glh	as per recommended glh
<i>no NQF equivalent</i>	BTEC Certificate (L2)	90	90	90
3 unit qualifications				
Edexcel Introductory Certificates (L1)	BTEC Certificate (L1)	variable glh	as per recommended glh	as per recommended glh
Edexcel First Certificates (L2)	BTEC Extended Certificate (L2)	180	180	180
<i>no NQF equivalent</i>	BTEC Certificate (L3)	180	180	180
6 unit qualifications				
Edexcel Introductory Diplomas (L1)	BTEC Diploma (L1)	variable glh	as per recommended glh	as per recommended glh
Edexcel First Diplomas (L2)	BTEC Diploma (L2) *	360	360	450
Edexcel BTEC National Awards (L3)	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma (L3)	360	360	450
OCR National Certificate (at levels 1, 2, and 3)	<i>no QCF replacement available</i>			
12 unit qualifications				
Edexcel BTEC National Certificates (L3)	BTEC Diploma (L3)	720	720	720
OCR National Diploma (L3)	<i>no QCF replacement available</i>			
18 unit qualifications				
Edexcel BTEC National Diplomas (L3)	BTEC Extended Diploma (L3)	1080	1080	1080
OCR National Extended Diploma (L3)	<i>no QCF replacement available</i>			