

From Regulation to Publication on the Learning Aim Reference Application

The Journey of Qualifications for use by Young People

Date 30 September 2011

i For information

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Introduction

- 1 This note describes the processes and organisations involved in the Qualification Journey from when a qualification is regulated to acquiring approval under Section 96 and funding information for use by young people under the age of 19 years old, which is published on the Learning Aim Reference Application (LARA).
- 2 It includes:
 - a. A high level process diagram of the Qualification Journey.
 - b. A visual aid providing step-by-step instructions on how to establish where a qualification is within the Qualification Journey.
 - c. Contact details to obtain a status update on a qualification within the Qualification Journey.

Audience

- 3 The audience for this note is all further education stakeholders interested in publicly funded qualifications for delivery to young people under the age of 19 years old, particularly providers and awarding organisations.

Provision in Scope

- 4 This note relates to the journey of qualifications seeking public funding for the use by young people up to the age of 19 years old.
- 5 This note does not detail any contact information or processes associated with qualifications that are eligible for public funding for adult learners. For this information please read the corresponding document from the Skills Funding Agency available from http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/LAD_documents.htm
- 6 In November 2010, ministers decided to remove the former Section 96 (Learning and Skills Act 2000) administrative criteria for the approval of vocational qualifications for use by students up to 19 years old and dissolve the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualification Approval (JACQA).
- 7 In place of the previous arrangements, the following interim arrangements have been established:

From 20 July 2011 the following arrangements will apply to the consideration of qualifications for which Section 96 approval is sought.

1. No new qualifications to be approved for use pre-16. With the exception of any newly accredited GCSEs and equivalent academic qualifications (including iGCSEs with an established track record), no new qualifications for use pre-16 will be approved until further notice. Please note that there is no longer a requirement for pre-16 qualifications to be compliant with the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

2. Newly accredited qualifications for use post 16 will in general be approved.

3. Only qualifications that meet high-quality standards shall be eligible for consideration for public funding. Accreditation by Ofqual (or a regulatory body recognised by them) will be expected to provide these assurances. Account will also be taken of whether the qualification is suitable for the age group in terms of maturity, social well-being and health and safety requirements.

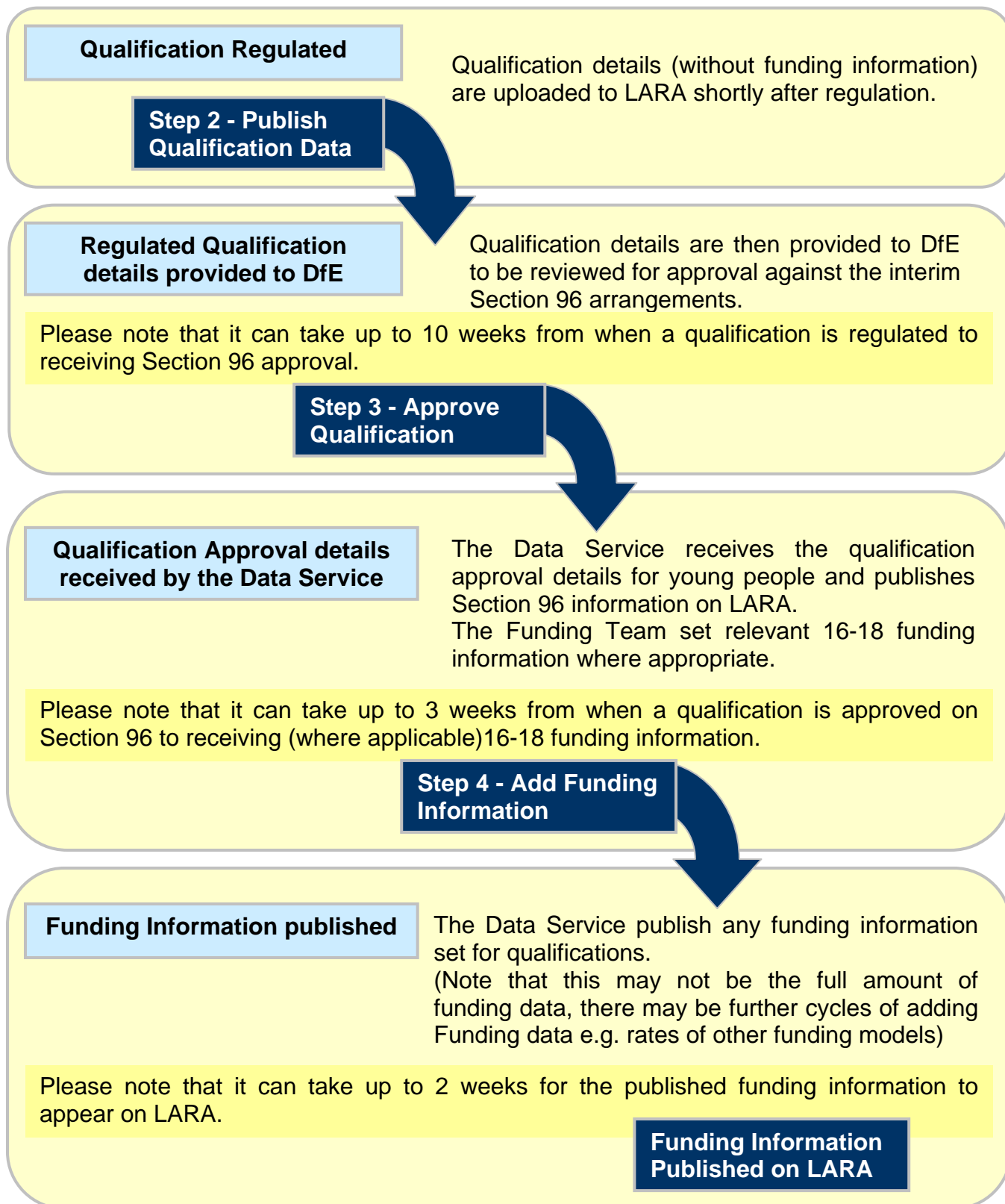
In all cases, the Secretary of State will retain the ability to approve or not to approve qualifications on an individual basis.

- 8 These interim arrangements will be kept under regular review, and any updates will be published on the Department of Education (DfE) website.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/section96/index.shtml>

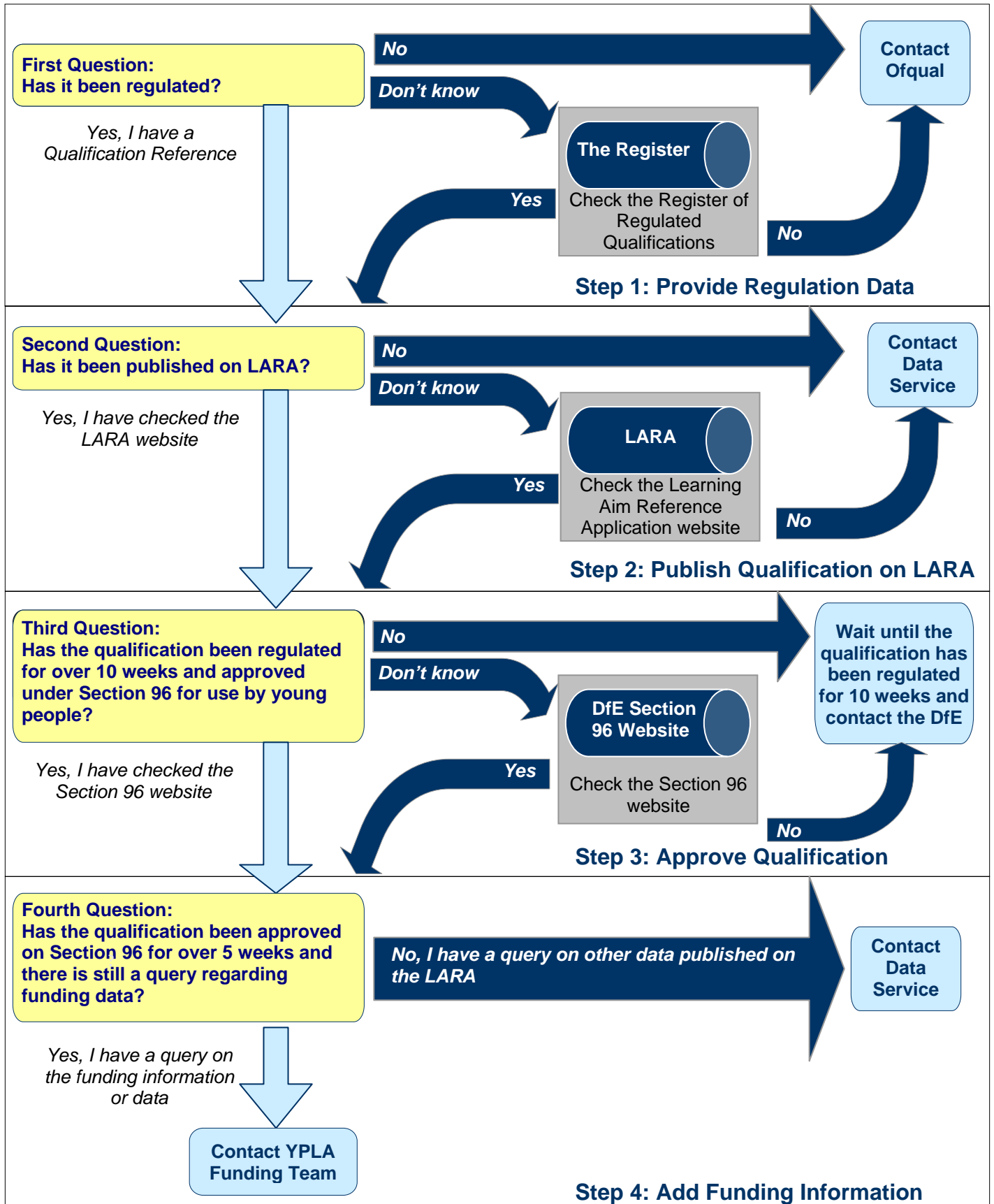
High level process diagram of the Qualification Journey

9 This is a high level representation of the journey of qualifications for use by young people. Please note that it can take up to 15 weeks for a qualification to travel the complete Qualification Journey.



Visual aid providing step-by-step instructions

10 This is a visual aid providing step-by-step instructions to enable the tracking of a qualification within the Qualification Journey and where to contact for additional information.



Contact details to obtain a status update

11 This gives details of the first place to go to obtain information on the status of a qualification for use by young people at each step of the process. Responses to all queries will be provided in a timely manner.

Step 1 Ofqual - Provide Regulation Data

To check whether a qualification has been regulated use the following link:

[The Register of Regulated Qualifications](#)

If you have a specific query regarding Regulation please e-mail Ofqual at:

info@ofqual.gov.uk

Step 2 Data Service - Publish Qualification on LARA

To check whether the qualification has been published on LARA use the following link:

[Learning Aim Reference Application](#)

If the qualification has been regulated but is not showing on LARA then please e-mail the Data Service Service Desk at:

servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk

If the qualification has been regulated and is showing on LARA but without 16-18 funding values, please do not contact the Service Desk but proceed to Step 3:

Step 3 Department of Education - Approve Qualification on Section 96

To check whether a qualification has been approved for use by young people and is listed on Section 96 use the following links:

[Section 96 Qualifications](#)

If you have a specific query regarding Section 96 approval please contact the Department for Education at:

section96.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that it can take up to 6 weeks for a qualification to be processed and sent as a formal request to the DfE for Section 96 approval. On a monthly basis, the DfE process both new qualifications and changes to qualifications for Section 96 approval.

Therefore it may take up to 10 weeks from when a qualification is regulated to receiving Section 96 approval or for the Section 96 website to update with any revisions to qualification data.

Step 4 Young People's Learning Agency - Add Funding Information

If the qualification in question is showing on LARA and has been approved on Section 96 but does not have 16-18 funding values on LARA then please e-mail the YPLA Funding Team at:

cvhfundingqueries@ypla.gov.uk

For further guidance on Young Peoples Learning Agency funding policy use the following link:

[YPLA Funding Guidance](#)

Please note that it can take up to 5 weeks for the Funding Team to receive the qualification approval data, set where appropriate a funding rate and for the funding information be published on LARA.

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