



NEWS RELEASE

07 May 2010

SQA STRIKES GOLD WITH STAFF HEALTH AWARD

One of Scotland's leading public sector organisations has been recognised for the work it does helping its staff adopt healthier lifestyles.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has been recognised with a gold award from Healthy Working Lives for the work it carries out across its sites in Glasgow and Dalkeith in Midlothian.

The gold award acknowledges the work carried out by SQA helping its staff make informed decisions about healthy lifestyle choices and socially responsible working practices.

SQA, which employs 650 staff across its two sites, submitted an extensive portfolio of evidence to the Healthy Working Lives assessment panel, demonstrating the organisation's three year commitment to developing health promotion and safer practices in the workplace.

Dr Janet Brown, SQA chief executive, said: "This is a fantastic achievement. Staff at our sites in Dalkeith and Glasgow have done a great job demonstrating our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles that their colleagues can adopt in their home-lives and in the work place.

"From providing co-workers with opportunities to discuss aspects of their lifestyle they'd like to improve to encouraging colleagues to reduce the impact their working practices have on the local environment, we've been able to demonstrate the measures being taken to help improve the health and well-being of all our staff.

"Our recent campaigns to raise awareness of bowel and breast cancers and the promotion of mental health issues and awareness are examples of the work our staff have undertaken."

Sir Andrew Cubie, chair of Healthy Working Lives, said: "I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution SQA has made in the improvement of health and well-being as an integral part of our corporate culture in Scotland.

"This is the ultimate award Healthy Working Lives can present to any organisation and can only be done so once we have received clear evidence of a long term commitment to improving healthy living standards in the work place. My congratulations go to everyone at SQA who has contributed to this achievement."

- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

About SQA:

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is an executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Scottish Government's Learning Directorate. It is the national accreditation and awarding body in Scotland.

SQA works in partnership with schools, colleges, universities and industry to provide high quality, flexible and relevant qualifications and assessments - embedding industry standards where appropriate. We strive to ensure that SQA qualifications are inclusive, accessible to all, that they provide clear progression pathways, facilitate lifelong learning and recognise candidate achievement.

There are approximately 1,500 centres approved to offer our range of qualifications.

Our qualifications include:

- National Qualifications (including Standard Grade, National Units and courses at Access, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher levels)
- Skills for Work Courses
- Professional Development Awards
- National Progression Awards
- National Certificates
- Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNC/HND)
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- Customised Awards

Find out more, visit www.sqa.org.uk.

For more information on Healthy Working Lives, visit www.healthyworkinglives.com.

Issued by:

Russell Paton
SQA Communications Officer
0845 213 5531
russell.paton@sqa.org.uk