

14 October 2003

To: Head of Centre

cc: SQA Co-ordinator

Action by Recipient
Response required
Note and pass on
✓ None – update/information only

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Dear Colleague

### Core Skills Consultation

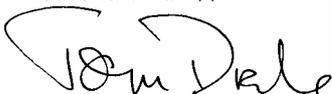
I am writing to advise you of SQA's decision not to conduct a consultation on Core Skills at this time and to defer consultation until the emerging outcomes of planned national initiatives become available.

From feedback and research<sup>1</sup> it is clear that the current approach to the certification of Core Skills is not performing as well as intended, either in improving national performance or in meeting the needs of the economy and employers. In particular, we are aware of concerns regarding the extent to which the system is creating an awareness of Core Skills among teachers, learners and employers and about the value of what is being certificated.

In researching and reviewing the options for addressing these issues it has become clear that a number of national initiatives – such as the Review of the 3 – 18 Curriculum and development of Personal Learning Plans (PLPs), Progress File and Personal Lifelong Learning Plans – place the development of Core Skills in a much broader context and lead logically to deferment of the work planned in this area.

We therefore feel that to move to consultation now would be premature. We consider that it is better to ensure that all the options for change are fully considered in the light of the emerging outcomes of the initiatives referred to above. The first phase of the Review of the Curriculum is scheduled to be completed next summer. The National Agencies, the National Qualifications Steering Group and the Scottish Executive are aware of and are in agreement with the decision to defer consultation.

Yours faithfully,



Tom Drake  
Acting Director of Qualifications

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<sup>1</sup> This research is available on the SQA website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)