

31 March 2010

To: SQA Co-ordinators and Head of Centres
(schools & colleges)

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
Note — update/information only

Dear Colleague

Curriculum for Excellence Update

I am writing to you to give you an update on SQA's contribution to the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and would ask that you share this with your staff.

Our principal role is to develop and deliver the new qualifications and assessment building on the 3-15 curriculum outcomes and experiences. As with any new qualification, we cannot do this alone and are ensuring that our partners, stakeholders, including parents, and the teaching profession are fully involved in the development process.

This collaborative working will help ensure that the new qualifications will motivate and challenge learners and allow them to move smoothly from a broad, general education into learning that leads to qualifications and employment.

The CfE Management Board and SQA's Qualifications Committee have recently signed-off the design principles for the new National 4 and 5 qualifications, which will be delivered in 2013/14 and will replace Standard Grade and Intermediate 1 and 2 qualifications, which currently sit at SCQF levels 4 and 5. Please find below a link to a summary of these principles, which I hope you will find informative – further information is available on our website: www.sqa.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence

We have nine Curriculum Area Review Groups up and running, whose membership is made up of strategic stakeholders, such as key partner national organisations or agencies, local authorities, schools, Higher Education and Further Education, employers and parents. The groups are working with us on the vision, skills and principles required for each curricular area and advising on which qualifications to develop. These are Literacy and Numeracy; Expressive Arts; Health and Wellbeing; Languages; Mathematics; Religious and Moral Education; Sciences; Social Studies and Technologies.

We are currently establishing Qualification Design Teams (QDTs) for each subject area, whose membership is made up of subject experts from Local Authorities, schools, colleges, universities and employers. These teams will work with us on the individual qualification developments, taking

forward the brief and rationale provided by the Review Groups. The QDTs will work on over 50 subjects from English and History to Physics and French.

This is a major programme of work and we will be publishing progress reports (from May onwards) and development updates on our website when they become available. Our MyAlerts service updates subscribers whenever content is added or updated on our CfE webpages. This means that all those interested will be able to follow progress as the qualifications are being developed and will have the opportunity to comment.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with you to successfully deliver CfE. Together we will provide an education system that will equip our learners with the skills and knowledge needed to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Janet Brown
Chief Executive