Guidance on Internal Verification Sampling Strategies

The SQA publication *Internal Verification: A Guide to Centres* gives guidance on a range of standardisation exercises and on sampling of candidate assessment by internal verifiers.

The following examples are standardisation exercises used by centres:

♦ Agreement trials
♦ Dual assessment
♦ Cross assessment
♦ Evidence review
♦ Double marking
♦ Blind marking

Internal verification: sampling assessment judgements

Your sampling strategy will depend on the structure of your department and the range of qualifications you are delivering. The strategy you are using should be recorded.

Sampling might be as simple as two teachers cross-marking a number of candidate assessments which the other marked.

If, however, you have a number of different assessors and groups of candidates undertaking the same qualification you will need to have a sampling strategy which will allow the internal verifier(s) to check that each assessor is making consistent assessment judgements in line with national standards, with each group of candidates over time.

Sampling for internal verification is different from the samples selected for external verification by SQA.

The number of candidates included in the sample for internal verification should be proportionate to the total number of candidates you have. You might choose to use a defined percentage, or the square root of the total.

You also need to have a strategy for sampling from all Units across all levels of National Qualifications.

In the first year of delivery of a new qualification, you should verify assessments from every candidate group marked by every assessor. You might only need to sample a few from each group, or expand on the sample to explore further.

After the first year, the following factors should be taken into consideration in prioritising what to sample:

♦ New assessors (new to the qualification)
♦ Any changes to the Unit or assessments since the last delivery
♦ Any issues identified at the last internal or external verification
♦ Different approaches to assessment used with different groups
♦ Different locations of candidates and/or resources used

You may not need to look at every Unit every year, once you are confident that national standards are being applied, and where there have been no changes since the previous year. You could apply a rolling programme of verification sampling to ensure that a check on standards is maintained over time.