

10 June 2005

To: College Principals
SQA Co-ordinators
Heads of Department (Computing)

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

Contact Name: Angela Lees at Glasgow
E-mail: angela.lees@sqa.org.uk
Direct Line: 0141-242 2209

Dear Colleague

G7GL 15 HNC COMPUTING
G7TT 16 HND COMPUTING: SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
G7TR 16 HND COMPUTING: TECHNICAL SUPPORT

I wrote in December when I updated you on developments relating to the new HNC/HND Computing awards. At that time, I stated that I would write again once the validation process was complete.

1. HND Computing validation

I am delighted to report that the new HND Computing awards were successfully validated on 23 May 2005. These new awards will be available to centres from 1 August. Please note the new group awards codes at the top of this letter. The definitive Arrangements document can be downloaded at the following URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/cnm2t>

The unit specifications are available from SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the members of the Qualification Design Team (led by Mike Jannetta) and members of the Validation Panel (led by Dan Howell).

There will be a launch event for the new HND awards on 9 September 2005. We are currently accepting online registrations (only) for this event. Please visit the following URL for further information:

www.rsvpreister.com/event.php?52577

2. Expiry dates for existing awards

The new frameworks will replace a number of existing awards. These are:

- ◆ G176 15 HNC Computing (validated 1995)
- ◆ G28W 16 HND Computing: Software Development (validated 1995)
- ◆ G28X 16 HND Computing: Technical Support (validated 1995)
- ◆ G5VS 15 HNC Computing (validated 2001)
- ◆ G5VT 16 HND Computing: Software Development (validated 2001)
- ◆ G5VV 16 HND Computing: Technical Support (validated 2001)

In my last letter I informed you that I intended to lapse the **HNC awards** (G176 and G5VS) from 31 July 2005. However, in the light of subsequent feedback, I have decided to extend this deadline to **31 July 2006**. This means that we will not accept any new entries for these awards after this date. SQA will continue to certificate candidates until **31/07/09**.

The **HND awards** (G28W, G28X, G5VT and G5VV) will also expire on **31 July 2006**. No registrations will be accepted after this date. The final date of certification is **31/07/10**.

3. Transitional arrangements

During the next few years, some candidates may wish to transfer from an 'old' award to a 'new' one. I have updated the credit transfer table to include Units from the old and new frameworks. The latest version of this table is available from SQA's website. I would advise you to visit SQA's website from time-to-time for the latest version of the credit transfer table since this document will be occasionally updated.

I have received a number of enquiries relating to credit transfer to/from vendor awards. We are presently working on this and I intend to update the credit transfer table to include vendor awards in the near future.

4. HNC Computing framework

I have been asked to review the framework for HNC Computing (2004) in the light of the validation of the HND award. I have received a number of suggestions relating to optional Units. We are currently considering these proposals.

It is likely that additional Units will be added to the options within the HNC award. Please note that no changes will be made to the mandatory Units. Please check SQA's website for the latest framework.

5. Assessment exemplars

We have produced a large number of assessment exemplars during the last 12 months to support new/revised awards. I enclose a list of existing exemplars which are available on the secure area of SQA's website. Please contact your SQA Co-ordinator to access these files. I would advise you to visit the SQA website for the latest version of this document since the contents will be updated as exemplars are added or withdrawn.

6. HNC Graded Unit (examination) assessment exemplars

As you will see from the list of existing exemplars, there are currently three exemplars for each of the 2001 and 2004 HNC examinations (D77K 34 and DH36 34). I plan to produce three additional exemplars for the 2004 HNC Graded Unit (DH36 34). While this work has not yet been scheduled, I envisage that these new exemplars will be available by December. There will, therefore, be six exemplars to support DH36 34 Computing: Graded Unit 1 by January 2006.

7. Qualification Support Team

SQA is piloting a number of *Qualification Support Teams* (QST) to assist with the maintenance and development of existing awards. I have been asked to create a QST for Computing and Computing-related awards. I enclose the remit of this body.

We would be delighted to receive nominations for membership from centres. Please contact Angela Lees if you are interested.

8. Vendor awards

The new HN awards embed a number of vendor qualifications. Full details are included in the Arrangements document (available from SQA's website). I am presently in the process of validating a range of vendor-related PDAs and I will write to you with full information once this process is complete.

9. Computing team (HN/SVQ/PDA)

Please find enclosed an organisation chart that illustrates the structure of the support team within SQA with responsibility for Computing/IT awards. I would appreciate if you would use the contact information contained in this document when you communicate with SQA.

If you have not already done so, please subscribe to the HN Computing online community which can be found at the following URL:

www.smartgroups.com/groups/hncomputing

The community has over 300 members and is an excellent resource for centres which offer these awards. You may also wish to subscribe to the JISC mailing list (**www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/scot-fe-computing.html**).

Please contact Angela Lees if you have any queries relating to HNC/D Computing. Angela can be contacted by telephone (0141-242 2209) or e-mail (angela.lees@sqa.org.uk).

I hope that you are able attend the launch event.

Thank you for your continued support for SQA awards.

Yours faithfully



R Elliott
Qualifications Manager