

Our ref: GF/MP/HE&HOSP

6 December 2005

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Schools and FE colleges

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

Contact Name: Graeme Findlay at Glasgow
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Dear Colleague,

National Qualifications update — Construction

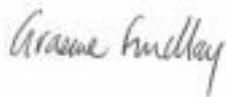
The contents of this update should be passed to members of staff responsible for NQ Construction Courses.

This update provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Construction at all levels. For further clarification on any matter covered in this update please do not hesitate to contact either:

- ◆ Roz Walker (e-mail: rosslynn.walker@sqa.org.uk, or telephone: 0141-242 2302)
- ◆ or myself using the contact details provided above

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager
NQ Construction

Diet 2005

Principal Assessor reports

The Principal Assessor reports are now posted on SQA's website. The NQ homepage includes a drop-down menu and Construction is one of the options given on this menu. This link will take you to 'Subject-specific Information' in which you will find the Principal Assessor reports. These reports contain information relevant to the past diet and the grades/cut-offs that can be used when estimating for this years examinations.

Senior Moderator reports

Moderation plays an important part of our yearly procedures. It is in place to ensure that teachers/lecturers are maintaining the standards that have been set. This year's reports can now be viewed on the web under the same sub-heading as the Principal Assessor reports.

NQ Review

As part of the Scottish Executives review of all Courses, the Construction area has recently been covered. Eleven low-uptake Construction Courses will be removed from the catalogue in June 2006. Two new Courses have been developed at Higher, covering the subjects of Building Construction and Architectural Technology.

The deletion of the existing Courses and the introduction of the two new Courses followed a national consultation involving key stakeholders. The associated Investigation Report, which can be viewed on SQA's website in the NQ Construction section, received Ministerial approval.

The SQA's letter regarding the low uptake policy was sent in October 2005 to all centres. This letter offers centres advice on how to register candidates they may have on the outgoing Courses that have still to complete their programme.

SQA's website contains a summary of the national low uptake policy at:

◆ www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/lowuptake.doc

The launch event for the two new Courses at Higher was held on Friday 25 November 2005 at Scottish Further Education Unit (SFEU) in Stirling. Delegates from further education and schools were in attendance. The Course documentation, including assessment information for both Units and Courses, was very well received by the delegates. These new Courses will be offered by centres for the first time in Session 2006/07.

Skills for Work — Construction Craft Skills

Phase 1 of the pilot is well under way with 21 centres, plus partners, participating in the Intermediate 1 Course. Andy Henderson is working as the Development Officer on the pilot and is currently visiting each centre to offer support and advice.

Moderation visits for the Pilot will commence early in 2006.

Phase 2 is still in the planning stages and Kevin McLaren is the Development Officer. A subject advisory group is meeting regularly in order to advise on the framework for the Course which will be levelled at Intermediate 2. We plan to hold a Deliverer's Event in March 2006 for this Course.

For information on either Phase 1 or 2, please contact Andy or Kevin on 0141-242 2302 or e-mail as follows:

◆ **andrew.henderson@sqa.org.uk**

◆ **kevin.mclaren@sqa.org.uk**