

Our ref: GF/MP/CON

9 January 2008

To: SQA Co-ordinator
Schools and FE colleges

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

Contact: Graeme Findlay at Glasgow
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E-mail: graeme.findlay@sqa.org.uk

Dear Colleague,

National Qualifications update — Construction

The contents of this update, which provides information and advice to centres in relation to National Qualifications in Construction Courses at all levels, should be passed to members of staff responsible for the subject.

Assessment Panel

The next meeting of the Panel is 9 May 2008. If you have any questions for the Panel, please get in touch with us by the end of April 2008.

Implementation of policy on low uptake National Courses

SQA's low uptake policy was endorsed by the National Qualifications Steering Group (NQSG) in October 2003. This policy states that 'existing National Courses will have a minimum life of five years. Courses at Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Higher which have failed to attract 100 candidates a year after five years and 50 candidates a year at Advanced Higher will be reviewed to determine whether they continue to be offered'. However, since the policy was agreed, the environment has changed significantly because of the publication of *A Curriculum for Excellence* and developments in our portfolio review. The full impact of these two development programmes is not yet clear, and may affect decisions about which Courses continue to be offered. Therefore, this year we have only considered whether Courses with zero or very low uptake will continue to be offered. As a result of these considerations, we have decided that, of the Courses in these categories:

- ♦ some will be removed from the NQ Catalogue after diet 2008. The Units making up these Courses will be retained in the catalogue
- ♦ some will be retained in the NQ Catalogue, but will be reconsidered in line with the policy at a later date if they remain in the very low uptake category

Details of decisions are shown in the table below. If the withdrawal of any of these Courses will cause your centre any difficulties, please contact Linda Murray, Project Manager, at linda.murray@sqa.org.uk, as soon as possible, outlining your concerns.

National Courses with very low uptake to be removed from the NQ Catalogue after diet 2008 (last examination diet 2008)					
Course	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fabrication and Welding (Intermediate 2)	4	5	7	4	6
Structural Engineering (Higher)	8	5	11	9	5

Note: The Units making up the above Courses will be retained in the NQ Catalogue.

National Qualifications for the Future

For more information relating to our work on *National Qualifications for the Future* and our work in relation to the *Curriculum for Excellence* programme, you can contact Lena Gray, SQA's Business Manager for *A Curriculum for Excellence*, by e-mail at: lena.gray@sqa.org.uk.

Skills for Work — Construction Crafts

The first round of Support Networks was held at Inverness and Lauder Colleges; thanks to those involved in providing excellent facilities and assisting with the delivery on the day. The feedback we received was excellent, especially the opportunity to talk with deliverers who shared their experiences with the delegates.

The next round of Support Networks will be held in March 2008, information on venues and dates will be issued to Centres in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Graeme Findlay
Qualifications Manager
NQ Construction