

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Consultation on subtitling

In May 2005, revised design principles for Professional Development Awards (PDAs) were agreed as part of SQA's Portfolio Review (see Appendix 1). PDAs will now range from SCQF level 6-12 and these qualifications will be given the title 'Professional Development Award', together with the SCQF level.

However, subsequent to the principles being agreed, some users have indicated that PDAs should also be given a subtitle to reflect the level of the Award. Subtitles would have the advantage of being more easily understood by users, which would help when marketing the qualifications.

At the moment there are four types of PDAs — Certificate, Advanced Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma — which span more than one level on the SCQF. Revised PDAs will now be allocated to one level on the SCQF and this means that we would potentially need seven subtitles to distinguish levels.

You are asked to consider the two options below:

◆ **Option one — no subtitle**

Awards would be titled:

'Professional Development Award + the name of the award + SCQF level'

eg:

Professional Development Award in Golf Course Management at SCQF level 7

◆ **Option two — with subtitle**

Awards would be titled:

'Professional Development Award + SCQF level

Subtitle + the name of the award'

eg:

Professional Development Award at SCQF level 7

Certificate in Golf Course Management

If you choose option two:

The subtitles would be needed for each SCQF level from 6-12. Suggestions on possible subtitles for each level would be welcomed.

Supplementary proposal on the number of SCQF credit points at the level of the Group Award

It is proposed that a minimum of half the number of SCQF credit points in any PDA should be at the level of the Group Award. This would be consistent with the equivalent design principle for HNC/HNDs.

Do you agree with this proposal?

APPENDIX 1

Revised design principles

Purposes and target groups

PDA's will be for those already in a career or vocation who wish to extend or broaden their skills base, usually after completing a degree or vocational qualification relevant to their area of interest. PDA's will assess and certificate progression in a defined set of specialist occupational skills.

Design principles

Professional Development Awards will:

- ◆ Be available at SCQF levels 6-12.
- ◆ Be made up of Units with a minimum credit value of 12 SCQF credit points at level 6, and 16 SCQF credit points at levels 7-12. Developers will set a credit value for the Group Award which is determined by the defined aims and rationale of the Group Award, and this will be checked by SQA at validation. The Group Award will be made up of at least two Units.
- ◆ Be made up of mandatory and/or optional Units which reflect the title of the Group Award.
- ◆ Be based on National Occupational Standards, or other professional body standards, as appropriate to the Group Award area.