Quarterly Statistics Report

Report on accredited qualifications

October – December 2012

An Assurance of Quality

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Contents

Executive summary	**1**
Introduction	**3**
Quarterly statistics	**4**
Currently accredited qualifications	4
Top 10 registrations and certifications	5
Analysis by qualification type	6
Analysis by awarding body	10
Analysis by area of competence	12
Analysis by qualification developer	17
Workplace Core Skills	19
Glossary	**23**

Executive summary

This report provides an overview of qualification activity for SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies for the third quarter (Q3) of 2012–13 (October – December 2013)[1]. The data is obtained directly from awarding bodies as part of their quarterly submission requirements and as such they are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

Data pertaining to City & Guilds had not been part of the Quarterly Statistics Reports throughout the period from Q4 2010–11 to their inclusion in the Q2 2012–13 report. City & Guilds data has been included in this report.

Currently accredited qualifications

During the third quarter of 2012–13 there were 1,116 accredited qualifications. These consisted of 911 Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) (82% of all qualifications), 44 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (4% of all qualifications), and 161 'Other' accredited qualifications (14% of all qualifications).

SQA Accreditation collects quarterly registration and certification data from all its approved awarding bodies. This is a summary of the data for Q3 2012–13:

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs): 13,336 SVQ registrations were received, across all levels; 403 registrations (>3%) less than the same quarter in the previous year. During the same period 7,657 SVQ certifications were submitted across all levels; a decrease of 11.5% compared to the same quarter in the previous year. As was the case last quarter (Q1, 2012–13), SVQ Levels 2 and 3 had the highest number of registrations and certifications, reflecting the high number of qualifications at these levels compared to other levels.

Regulatory and Licensing qualifications: 4,480 Regulatory and Licensing registrations were received; an increase of 44% compared to Q3, 2011–12. During the same period 4,400 Regulatory and Licensing certifications were submitted to SQA Accreditation; an increase of 45% compared to the same period in 2011–12.

'Other' qualifications: 10,092 'Other' qualification registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation; an increase of 14% compared to the same period in 2011–12. During the same period, 5,165 'Other' certifications were submitted; an increase of 20% compared to Q3, 2011–12.

1 This report provides an overview of qualification activity for all SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies, excluding CMI. Data relating to CMI has been excluded from this report.

Analysis by awarding body

It was clear from the data that some awarding bodies were more prominent in different qualification types. For example, in terms of registering and certificating SVQ candidates, SQA was the leading awarding body, while BIIAB was the leader for Regulatory and Licensing qualifications, and NEBOSH was the front-runner for 'Other' qualifications.

SVQs: SQA registered 9,869 candidates (74% of all SVQ registrations) and certificated 5,530 (72% of all SVQ certifications).

Regulatory and Licensing qualifications: BIIAB registered 2,134 candidates (48% of all Regulatory and Licensing registrations) and certificated 2,062 (47% of all Regulatory and Licensing certifications).

Other: NEBOSH registered 5,736 candidates (57% of all 'Other' registrations) and certificated 2,340 (45% of all 'Other' certifications).

Analysis by area of competence

Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services had the highest number of registrations and certifications for all qualification types.

Introduction

This statistical report is published by SQA Accreditation, which is the national accrediting body for Scotland. We set and specify the requirements for accrediting qualifications to support the needs of learners and employers in Scotland. We do this by promoting and maintaining public confidence in accredited qualifications and approved awarding bodies.

The information in this report has been produced from data provided to SQA Accreditation by the respective awarding bodies. Data covers SQA accredited qualifications during the third quarter of 2012–13 (October-December) and focuses on those candidates who were:

- registered for an SQA accredited qualification
- certificated for an SQA accredited qualification

At the point of accreditation, all qualifications are allocated a *qualification type* and an *area of competence*, which are used to classify qualifications in this report. This provides information on the number of registrations and certifications according to awarding body, area of competence, qualification type and level. Data may be revised in subsequent reports due to late submission or if any errors are identified.

For upcoming data submissions, the following deadline dates apply and must be adhered to by all awarding bodies to ensure the consistency and accuracy of data in future reports:

- 19 April 2013 for Q4 2012–13 data (January to March 2013)
- 12 July 2013 for Q1 2013–14 data (April to June 2013)
- 11 October 2013 for Q2 2013–14 data (July to September 2013)
- 17 January2014 for Q3 2013–14 data (October to December 2013)

Quarterly statistics

SQA Accreditation has always accredited SVQs. In 2006 the remit was extended to include accrediting Regulatory and Licensing qualifications, and in 2009 it was further opened up to include the accreditation of all qualifications excluding degrees. This report covers all qualifications types that we accredit, categorised as:

- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (R&L)
- 'Other' accredited qualifications

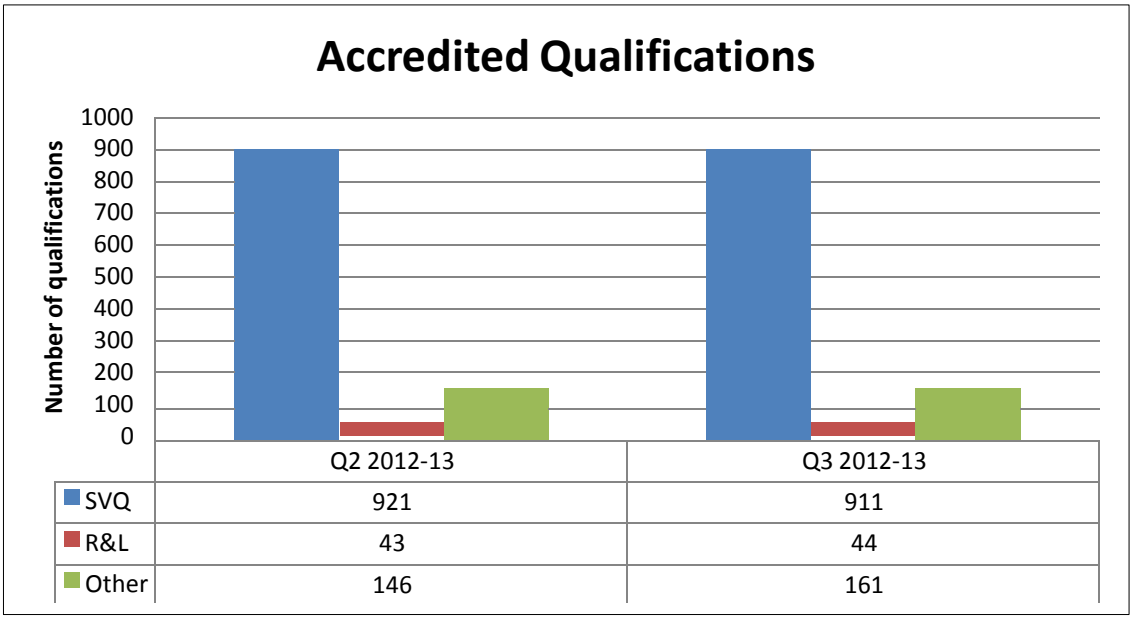
The report presents an overview of accreditation activity for the third quarter of 2012–13 (October–December 2012). It also reports qualifications statistics based on the data submitted to us by awarding bodies. Awarding bodies have responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

Data pertaining to City & Guilds had not been included in the Quarterly Statistics Report from Q4 2010–11 until its inclusion in the Q2 2012–13 report. As City & Guilds data has been included in this report, any significant impact will be highlighted.

Currently accredited qualifications

During the third quarter of 2012–13 there were 1,116 accredited qualifications. These are made up of 911 SVQs (82%), 44 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (4%) and 161 'Other' accredited qualifications (14%).

Figure 1 — Accredited qualifications



	Q2 2012-13	Q3 2012-13
SVQ	921	911
R&L	43	44
Other	146	161

The total number of qualifications accredited has increased from Q2 2012–13 by 0.5%

Top 10 registrations and certifications

During the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec) the following 10 qualifications experienced the highest number of registrations across all qualification types:

Table 1 — Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of registrations

Qualification title	Qualification type	No. of registrations
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	Other	3,438
BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (SCPLH)	Regulatory	1,144
SQA SVQ 2 Health and Social Care at SCQF Level 6	SVQ	1,103
ITC Certificate in Outdoor First Aid	Other	793
SQA SVQ 3 Health and Social Care (Adults) at SCQF Level 7	SVQ	726
NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction Health and Safety	Other	686
BIIAB Award in Door Supervision (Scotland)	Regulatory	681
NEBOSH Award in Health and Safety in Work	Other	481
EAL SVQ 2 in Performing Engineering Operations at SCQF Level 5	SVQ	453
NEBOSH National Certificate in Fire Safety and Management	Other	448

During the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec) the following 10 qualifications experienced the highest number of certifications across all qualification types:

Table 2 — Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of certifications

Qualification title	Qualification type	No. of certifications
NEBOSH National Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	Other	1,260
BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (SCPLH)	Regulatory	1,081
SQA SVQ 2 Health and Social Care at SCQF level 6	SVQ	866
ITC Certificate in Outdoor First Aid	Other	782
BIIAB Award in Door Supervision (Scotland)	Regulatory	681
SQA SVQ 3 Health and Social Care (Adults) at SCQF Level 7	SVQ	501
Pearson (Edexcel) SVQ 2 in Retail Skills at SCQF Level 5	SVQ	416
City and Guilds Certificate for Scottish Personal Licence Holders (On Sales)	Regulatory	412
ITC Emergency First Aid at Work	Regulatory	374
NEBOSH Award in Health and Safety in Work	Other	307

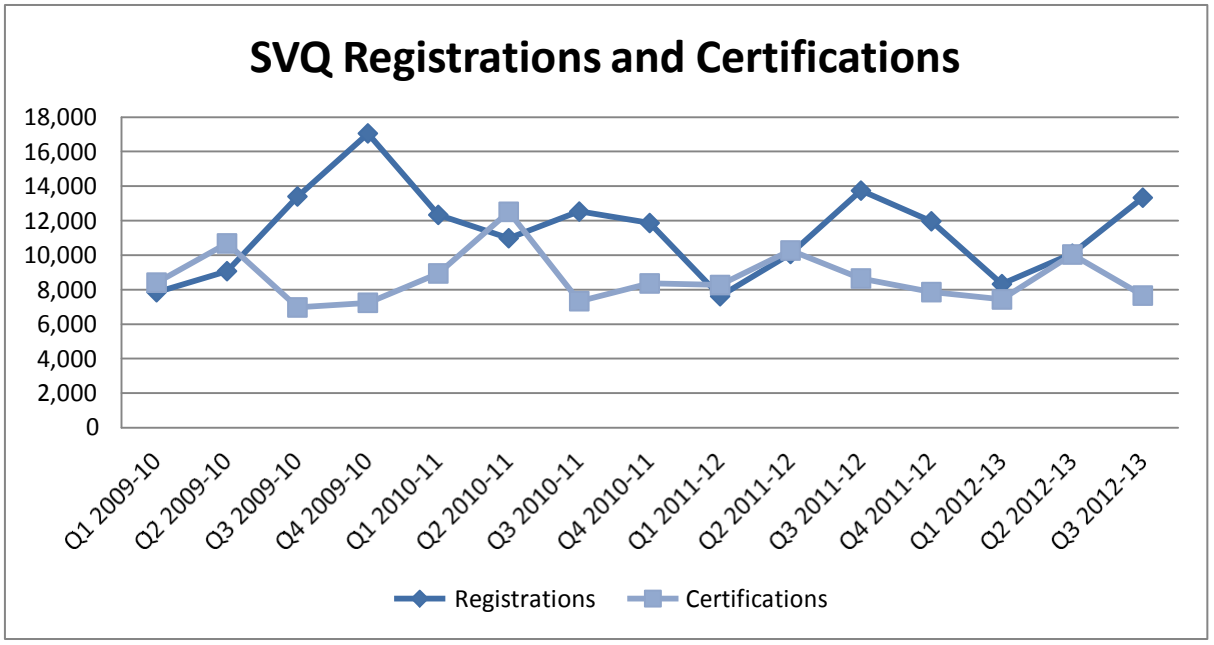
Analysis by qualification type

SQA Accreditation has collected SVQ data from awarding bodies for several years and is able to present trends in this data. Since starting to collect data for R&L and 'Other' qualifications in April 2010, it is now possible to start providing similar analysis across all qualification types without limiting statistics to SVQs. This should give a better picture of the landscape for accredited qualifications.

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ)

During the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec), 13,336 SVQ registrations were received, across all SVQ levels.

Figure 2 — SVQ registrations and certifications



This is a decrease of 3% (403 registrations) compared to the same time last year, but an increase of 6% from the same quarter in 2010–11. Without the added City & Guilds data, this would have shown a 10% decrease from the same period in 2011–12 and only 2% from 2010–11.

During the same period, 7,657 SVQ certifications were submitted across all levels; a decrease of 12% compared to the same quarter last year and an increase of 4% on the same time in 2010. Again the picture is slightly skewed as without the added City & Guilds certifications, the decrease would have been 19% and 5% respectively compared to the same quarter in previous years.

These registrations and certifications cover 911 qualifications offered by 18 awarding bodies. During this quarter, SVQs represented 81% of all currently accredited qualifications, 48% of all registrations and 44% of all certifications.

The SVQ with the highest number of registrations and certifications this quarter was the SQA SVQ 2 Health and Social Care at SCQF level 6, with 1103 registrations and 886 certifications. This qualification has shown the highest number of registrations for an SVQ in every quarter since the beginning of the financial year 2011–12.

Analysis by SVQ Level

The majority of SVQ registrations were at Level 3, with 6,284 registrations, representing 47% of SVQ registrations (see Figure 3).

The majority of SVQ certifications were at Level 2; with 3,954 certifications, representing 52% of SVQ certifications during the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec) (see Figure 4).

Figure 3 — Registrations by SVQ Level

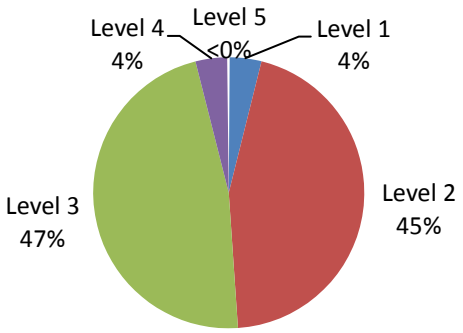
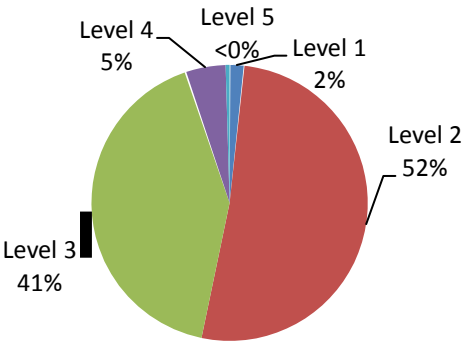


Figure 4 — Certifications by SVQ Level



The distribution of registrations and certifications across levels remains relatively stable, with the majority of registrations and certifications at Levels 2 and 3, in line with previous years (regardless of the inclusion/exclusion of data from City and guilds and CMI). Level 2 and 3 SVQs show higher levels of registrations and certifications because there are considerably more of these qualifications relative to other levels, as shown in Table 3.

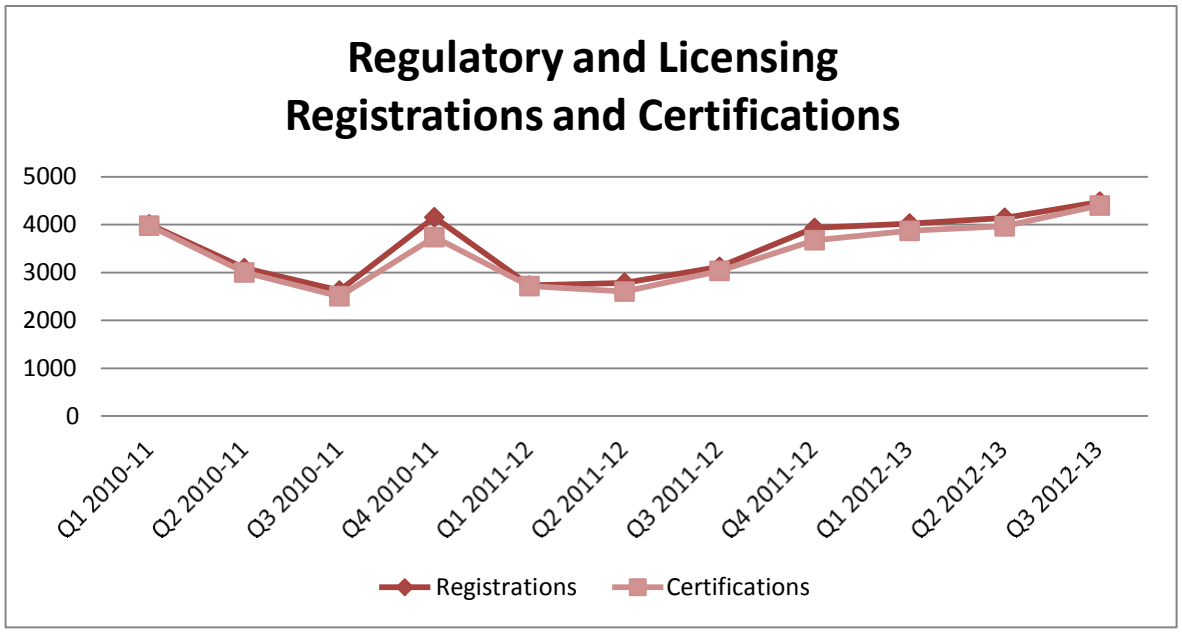
Table 3 — SVQ Levels

SVQ Level	No. of SVQs
Level 1	47
Level 2	379
Level 3	419
Level 4	57
Level 5	10

This may be linked to SVQs at Levels 2 and 3 forming a significant part of Modern Apprenticeships.

Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (R&L)

Figure 5 — Regulatory and Licensing registrations and certifications



During the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec), 4,480 Regulatory and Licensing registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation. This is an increase of 44% compared to the same time last year. During the same period 4,400 Regulatory and Licensing certifications were submitted to SQA Accreditation; also an increase (of 45%) compared to the same quarter last year. The peak in Q4 2010–11 is largely related to the 616 registrations submitted by City & Guilds that were omitted in 2011–12 and Q1 2012–13. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of registrations and certifications for these types of qualification.

These registrations and certifications cover 44 qualifications offered by 13 awarding bodies. During this quarter, Regulatory and Licensing qualifications represented 4% of all currently accredited qualifications, 16% of all registrations, and 26% of all certifications. The Regulatory and Licensing qualification with the highest number of registrations this quarter was the BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (SCPLH), with 1,144 registrations. This qualification also experienced the highest number of R&L certifications, with 1,081 certifications.

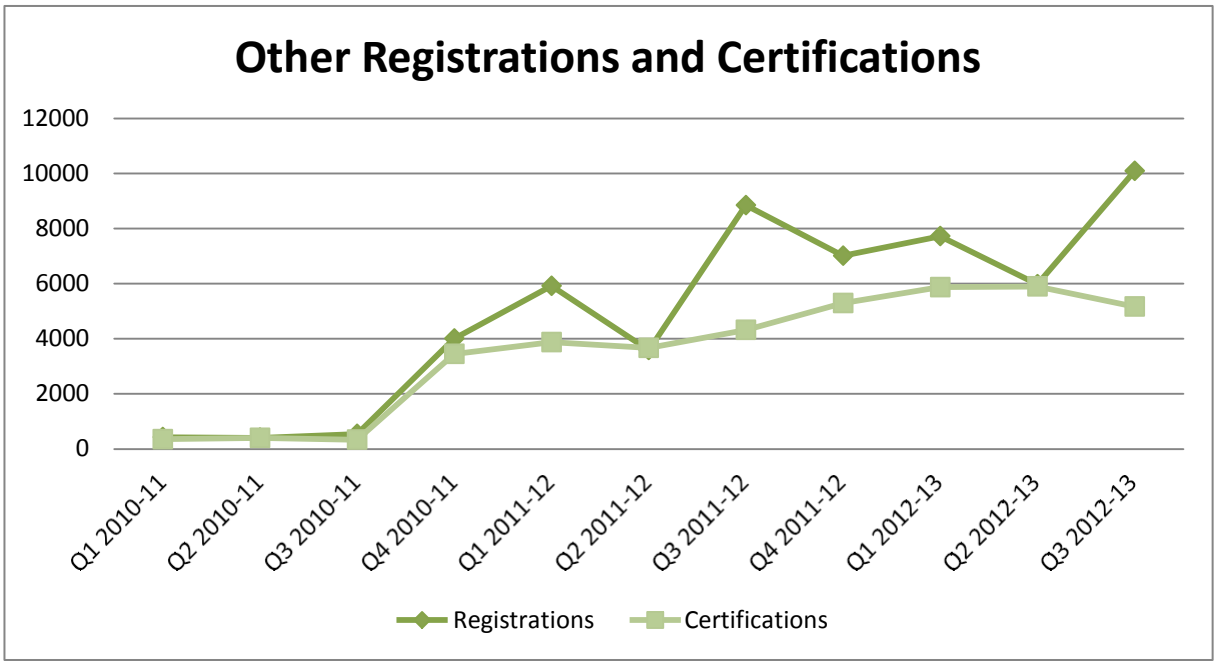
All other accredited qualifications (Other)

During the third quarter of 2012–13, 10,092 registrations for ‘Other’ qualifications were submitted to SQA Accreditation. This is an increase of 14% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. During the same period 5,165 ‘Other’ certifications were submitted; an increase of 20% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. ‘Other’ qualifications had shown a steady increase in certifications over the last year until this quarter.

There had been a significant increase in ‘Other’ registrations and certifications since Q4 2010–11 due to the increasing number of ‘Other’ qualifications being accredited. While this increase appeared to be levelling out, the graph below shows another sharp rise in registrations, probably due to the increase in the number of ‘Other’ Qualifications being

accredited (15 in the last quarter). It would be logical to predict a rise in the number of certifications over the next two quarters, showing a trend similar to Q3 and Q4 2011–12 (See below).

Figure 6 — 'Other' registrations and certifications



These registrations and certifications cover 161 qualifications offered by 20 awarding bodies. During this quarter, other qualifications represented 14% of all currently accredited qualifications, 36% of all registrations and 30% of all certifications.

The 'Other' qualification with the highest number of registrations this quarter was, once again, the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety with 3,438 registrations. This qualification also experienced the highest number of 'Other' certifications, with 1,260 certifications.

Analysis by awarding body

During Q3 2012–13 (Oct–Dec) the awarding body with the highest number of SVQ registrations overall was SQA, with 9,869 registrations (74% of all SVQ registrations). This awarding body also experienced the highest number of SVQ certifications overall, with 5,530 certifications (72% of all SVQ certifications).

For Regulatory and Licensing qualifications, the top registering and certificating awarding body was BIIAB, with 2,134 registrations (48% of all Regulatory and Licensing registrations) and 2,062 certifications (47% of all Regulatory and Licensing certifications).

NEBOSH was the top registering and certificating awarding body for 'Other' qualifications, with 5,736 registrations (57% of all 'Other' registrations) and 2,340 certifications (45% of all 'Other' certifications).

Figure 7 — Types of registrations by awarding body

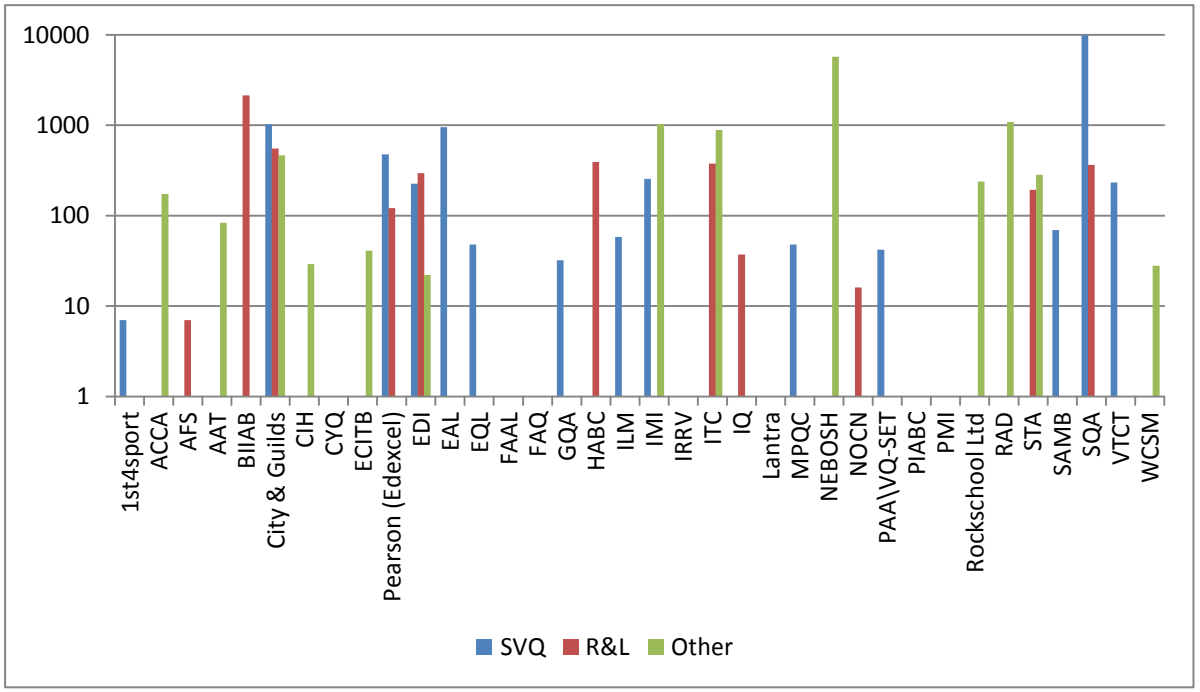
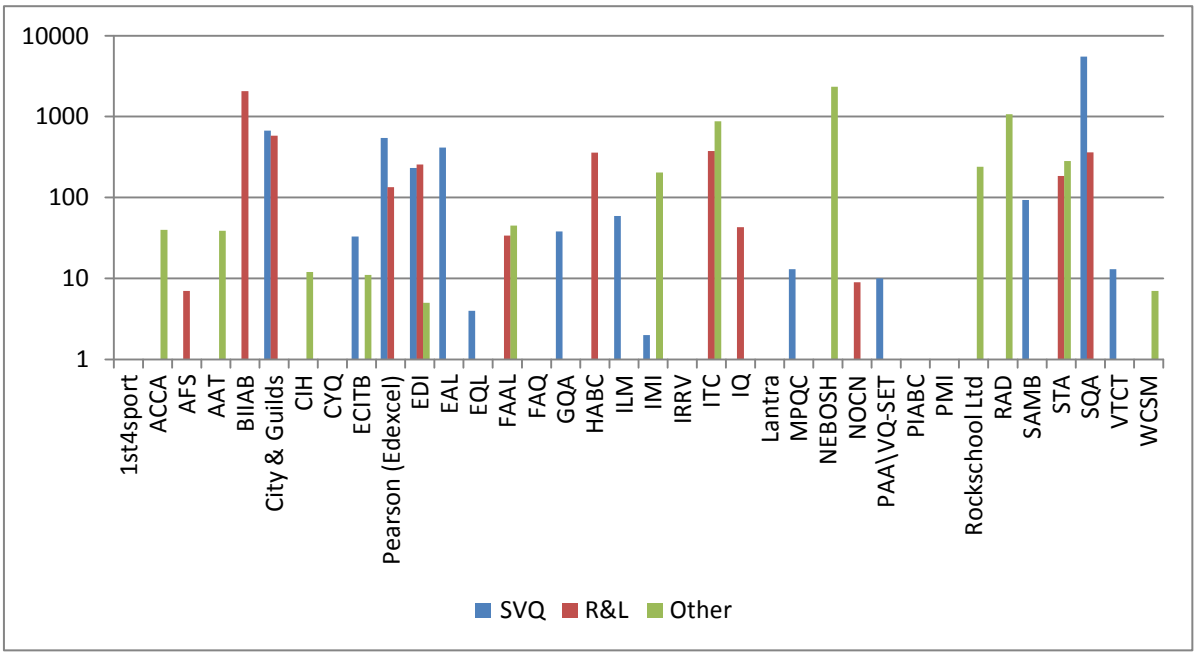


Figure 8 — Types of certifications by awarding body



Throughout Q3 2012–13, Central YMCA Qualifications (CYQ), Pensions Management Institute (PMI), PIABC, Future Awards & Qualifications Ltd (FAQ), Lantra, and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) all indicated that they had no registrations or certifications for any of their qualifications. As FAQ is a very recently approved awarding body, it is no surprise that it has no candidates at this time.

In terms of breakdown by qualification type, awarding bodies tend to focus on specific qualification types, with only EDI and City & Guilds registering and certificating qualifications across all types. (See Figures 7 and 8 above — please note the scale used in these graphs has been adjusted to make the figures more readable.)

Analysis by area of competence

At the point of accreditation, each qualification is assigned to one of the following 11 areas of competence:

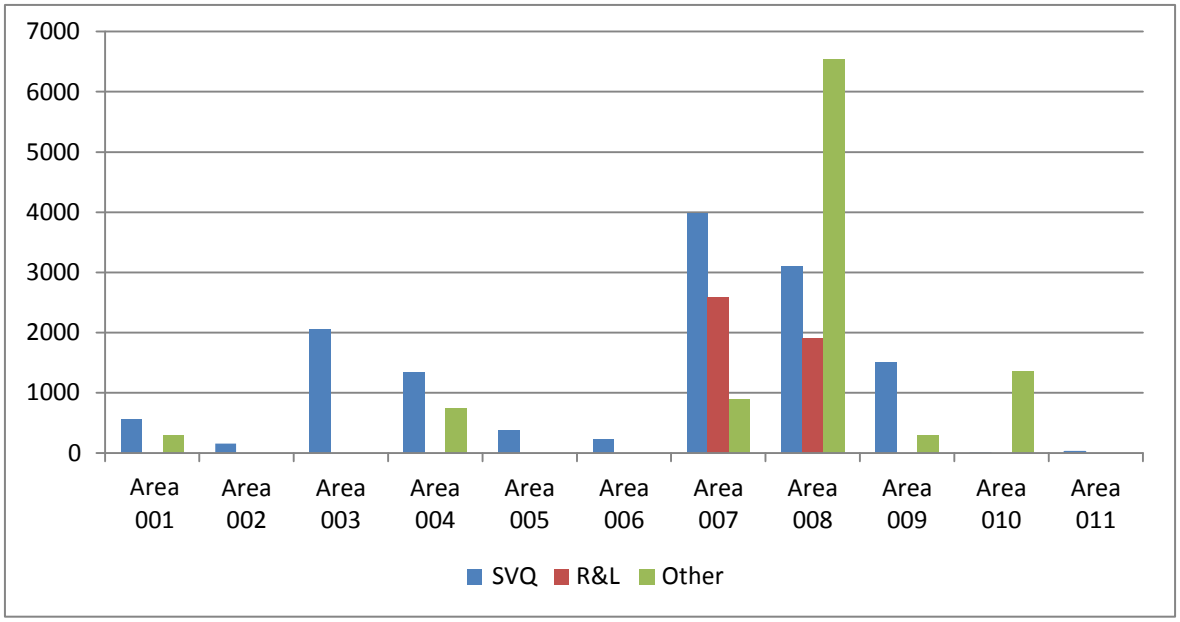
- 001 Tending Animals, Plants and Land
- 002 Extracting and Providing Natural Resources
- 003 Constructing
- 004 Engineering
- 005 Manufacturing
- 006 Transporting
- 007 Providing Goods and Services
- 008 Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services
- 009 Providing Business Services
- 010 Communicating and Entertaining
- 011 Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill

Each awarding body and sector skills council has a responsibility for verifying the allocation of these areas on a monthly basis when they are published on SQA Accreditation's website: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa//42336.html. These classifications are combined with registration and certification data submitted by awarding bodies to produce the statistics below.

Registrations by areas of competence

Registrations across areas of competence vary considerably. Figure 9 provides an overview of the number of registrations for each area of competence further broken down by qualification type. While the City & Guilds data has pushed up the overall figures, the trends remain fairly constant.

Figure 9 — Registrations by area of competence and qualification type



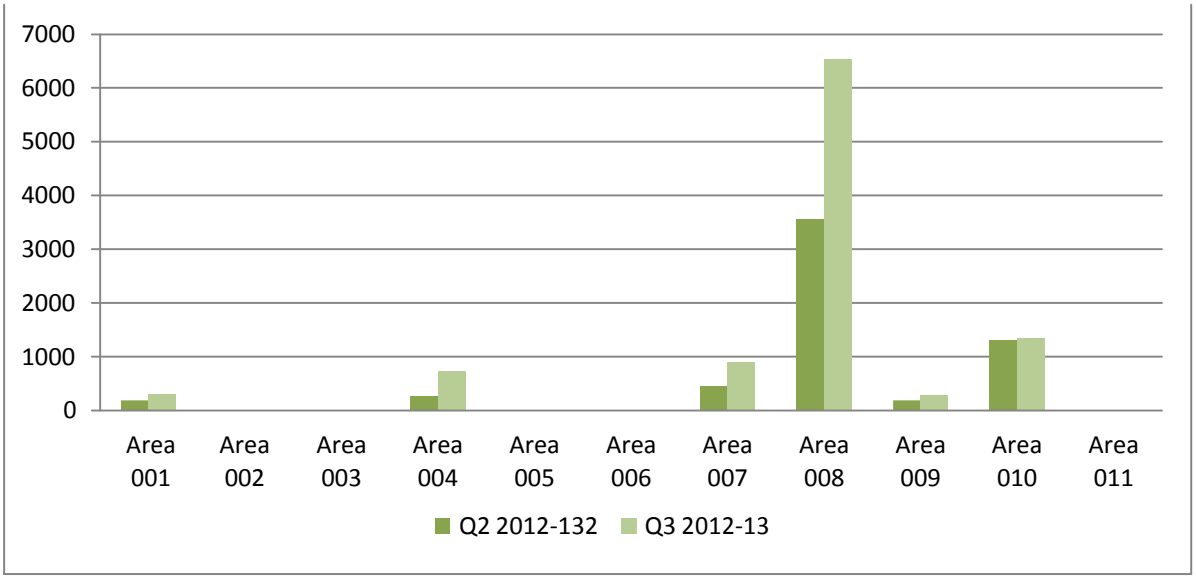
- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of SVQ registrations was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services 3,986 registrations, representing 30% of SVQs during the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec).
- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of Regulatory and Licensing registrations was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 2,585 registrations, representing 58% of Regulatory and Licensing qualifications during the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec).
- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of 'Other' registrations was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services with 6,530 registrations, representing 65% of 'Other' qualifications during the third quarter of 2012–13 (Oct–Dec).

There were few changes to the distribution of registrations for 'Other' qualifications compared to quarter 2 2011–12:

- Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services had the highest number of registrations again this quarter (6530). This has increased by 83% (2,967) from the last quarter and would appear to be partly due to over 1,000 registrations for the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety in Q3.
- There has been an increase in all the relevant areas of competence for 'Other' qualifications when compared to the last quarter.
- The most significant increases are in Areas 004, 007 and 008 both numerically and as percentages.

These movements are shown in Figure 10.

Figure 10 — Registrations for 'Other' qualifications



The distribution of registrations across areas of competence only changed very slightly for the Regulatory and Licensing qualifications. There was an increase of 3% (86 registrations) for Area 007: Providing Goods and Services, and an increase of 15% (249 registrations) for Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services (as shown in Figure 11). Regulatory and Licensing qualifications are only offered in these two areas — Providing Goods and Services and Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services.

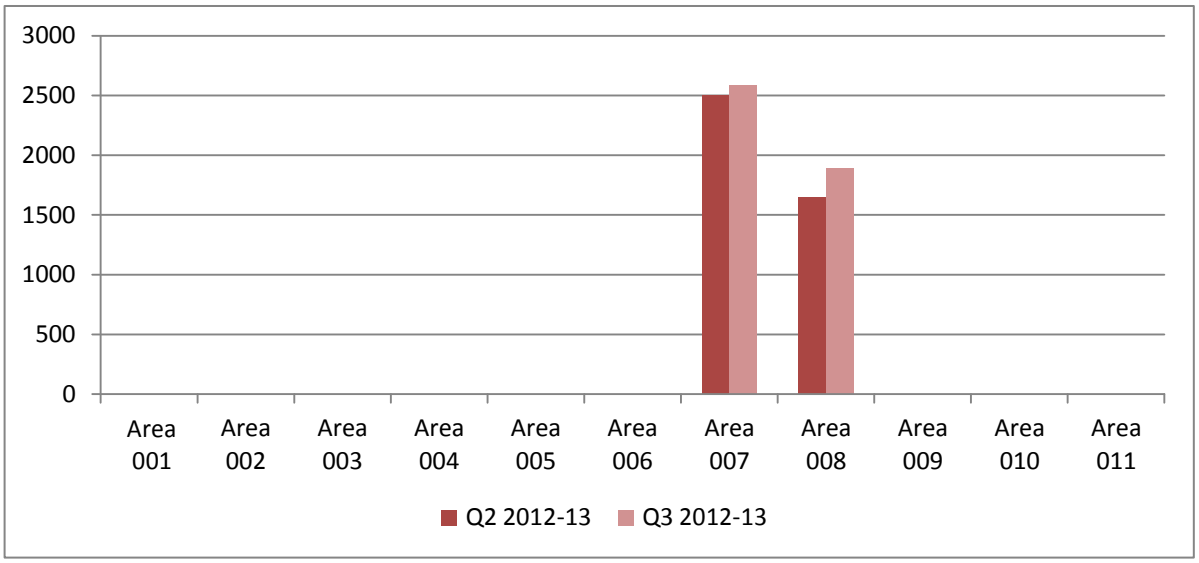


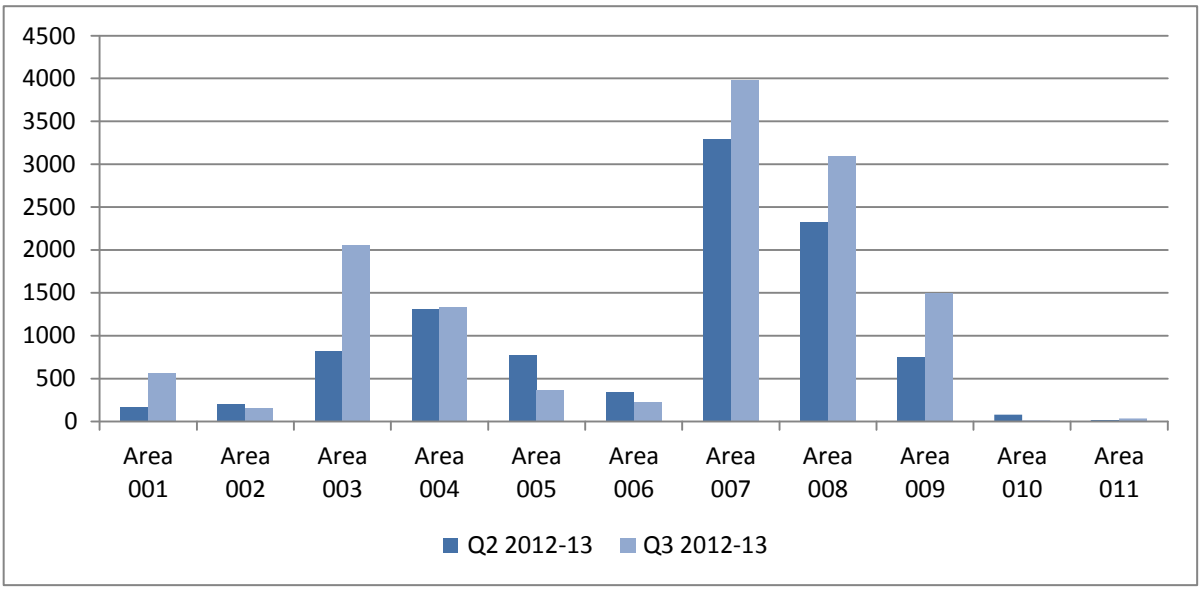
Figure 11 — Registrations for Regulatory and Licensing qualifications

For SVQs, the volume of registrations in many areas of competence has changed slightly. As shown in Figure 12, SVQs are offered in all 11 areas, and the range of areas of competence that SVQs are offered in remains in line with previous quarters.

Compared to the previous quarter, SVQ registrations have increased across most areas of competence. Areas 003, 007, 008 and 009 have all experiences significant increases, with Area 003 increasing by 151% (1,239 registrations), Area 007 up by 21% (689 registrations) Area 008 by 33% (772 registrations) and Area 009 up by 102% (760 registrations).

- The total number of registrations for SVQs in Area 003: Constructing, have increased due partly to general growth in the uptake of various SVQ qualifications across the sector.
- Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services also showed a significant increase on quarter 2 registrations. This was mainly due to large numbers of registrations for Health and Social Care SVQs offered by NEBOSH and SQA.
- Area 009: Providing Business Services increased by 102% (760 registrations). Traditionally there is an increase in registrations from Q2 to Q3 so, where there isn't a particular qualification with a significantly higher uptake, the change can be explained as seasonal.

Figure 12 — Registrations for SVQs

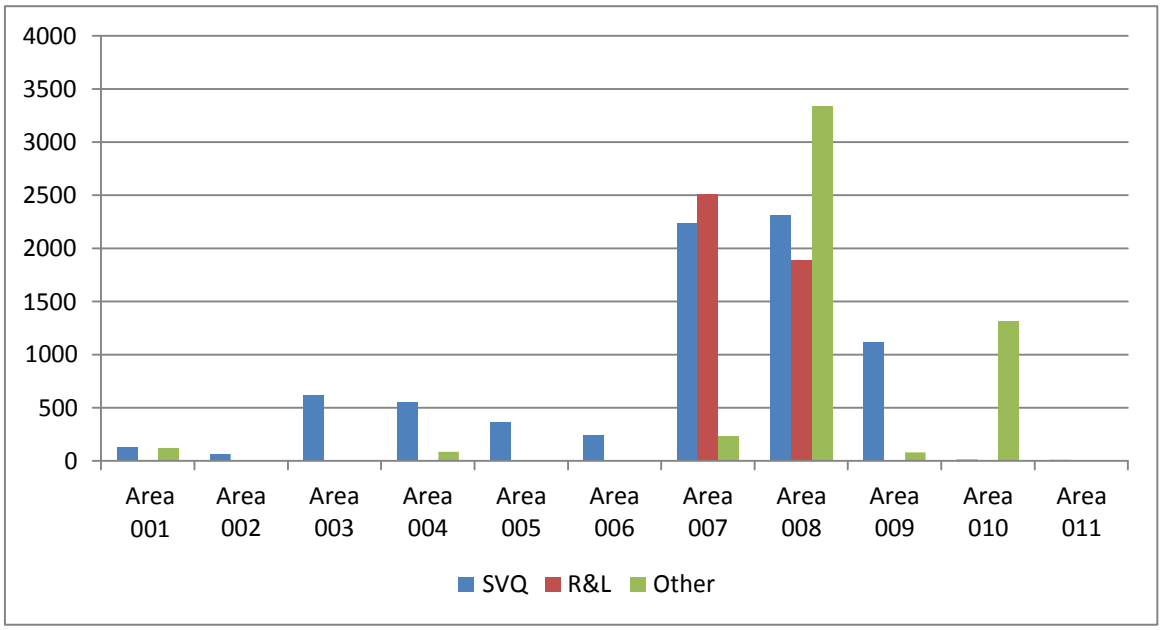


Certifications by area of competence

Figures for certifications are lower than those for registrations, yet the general trends are similar in the sense that the most certifications were for areas 001, 003, 007,008 and 009 as shown in Figure 13.

- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of SVQ certifications was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 2,238 certifications, representing 29% of SVQs during this period.
- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of Regulatory and Licensing certifications was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 2,507 certifications, representing 57% of Regulatory and Licensing qualifications during the same period. This is very similar to the previous quarter.
- The area of competence that experienced the highest number of ‘Other’ certifications was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services with 3,338 certifications, representing 65% of ‘Other’ qualifications during the same period.

Figure 13 — Certifications by area of competence and qualification type



When comparing Q3 certifications to Q2 2011–13, the distribution of certifications across the areas of competence and qualification types remain fairly stable even though the overall number has increased.

Analysis by qualification developer

SQA Accreditation focuses more directly on analysis by area of competence rather than sector skills councils (SSCs) or qualification structure developers because some SSCs develop qualifications across a range of sectors. Nevertheless, a breakdown of registrations and certifications by qualification structure developer is shown in Figures 14 and 15.

Figure 14 — Registration by qualification structure developer

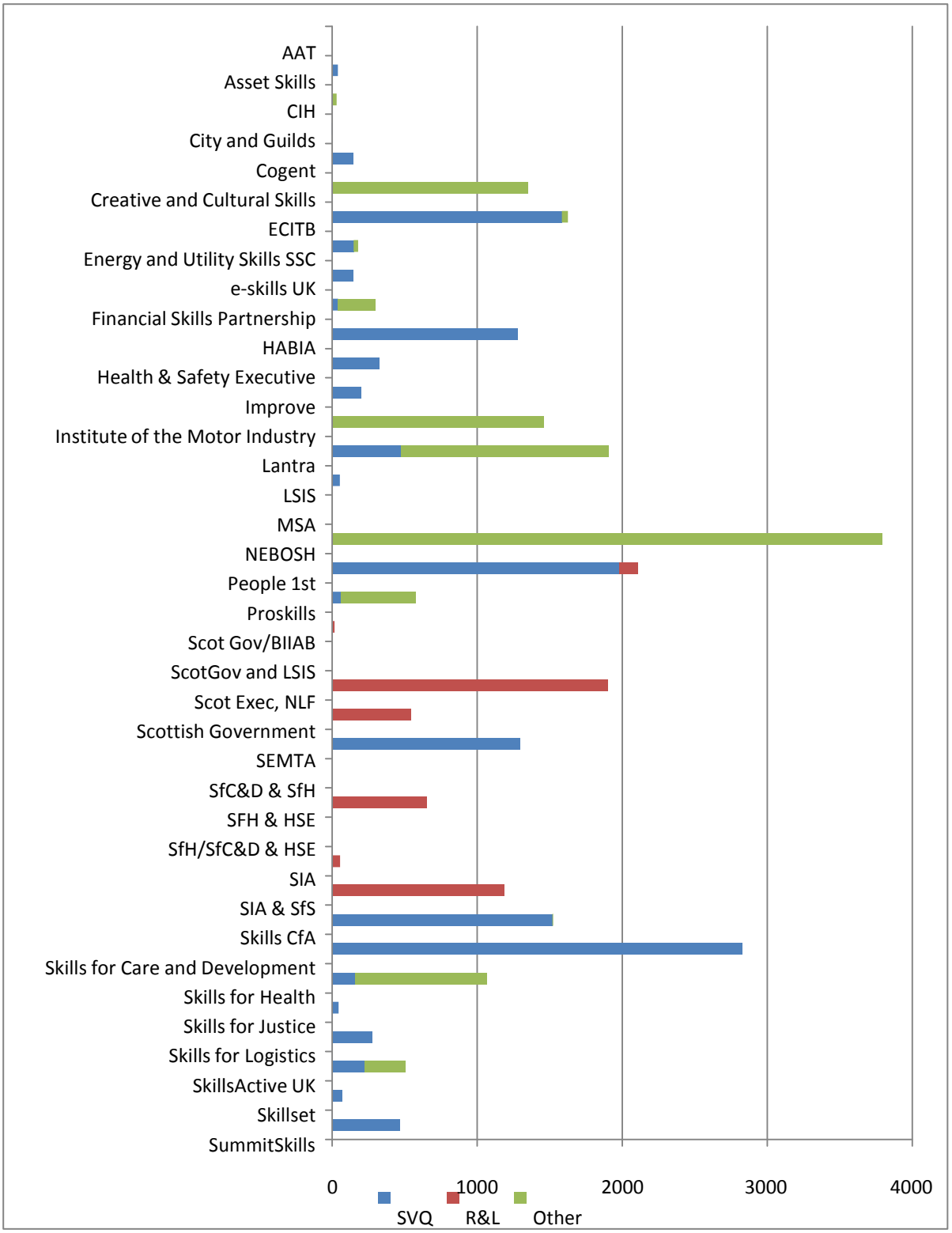
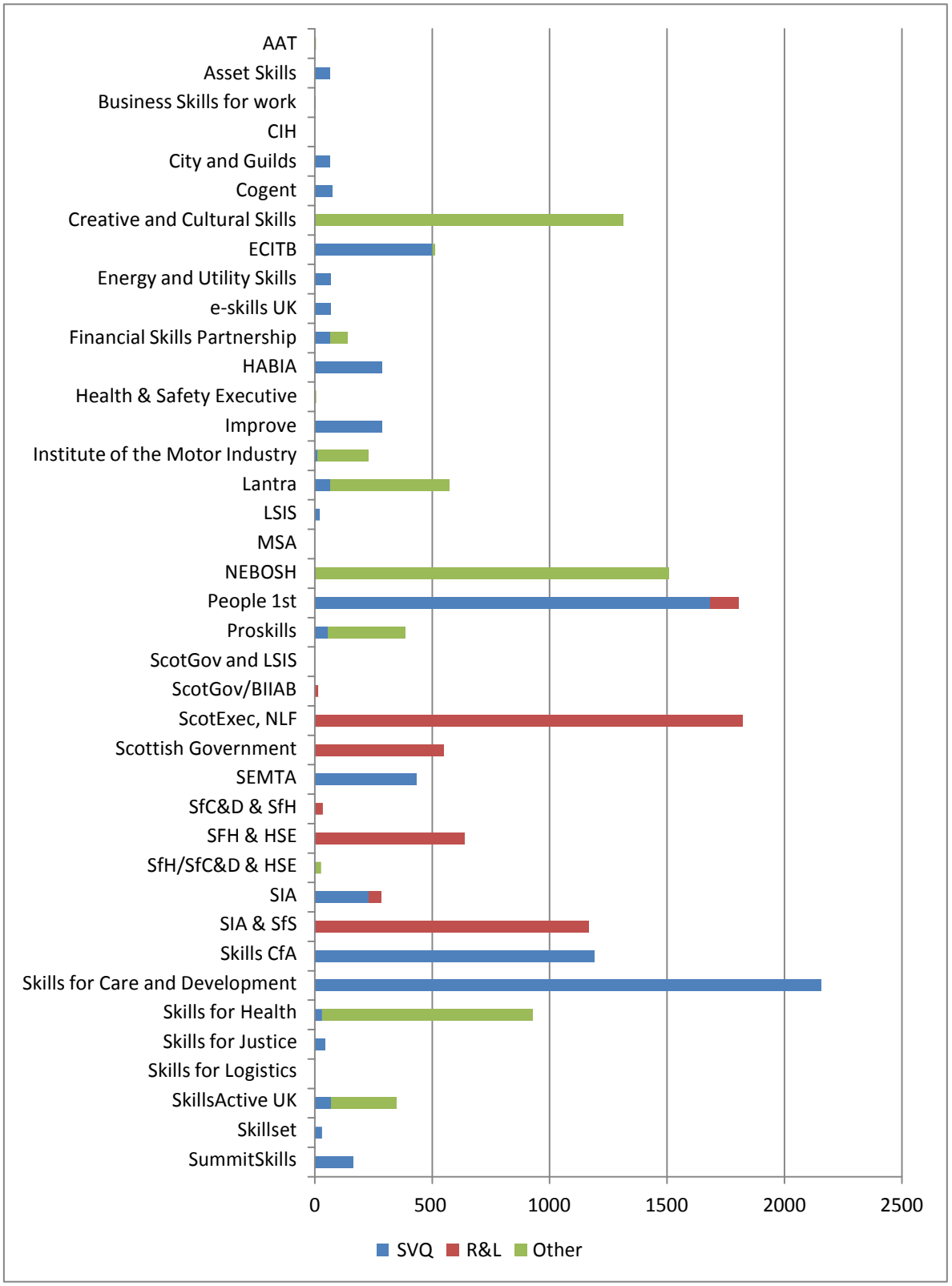


Figure 15 — Certification by qualification structure developer

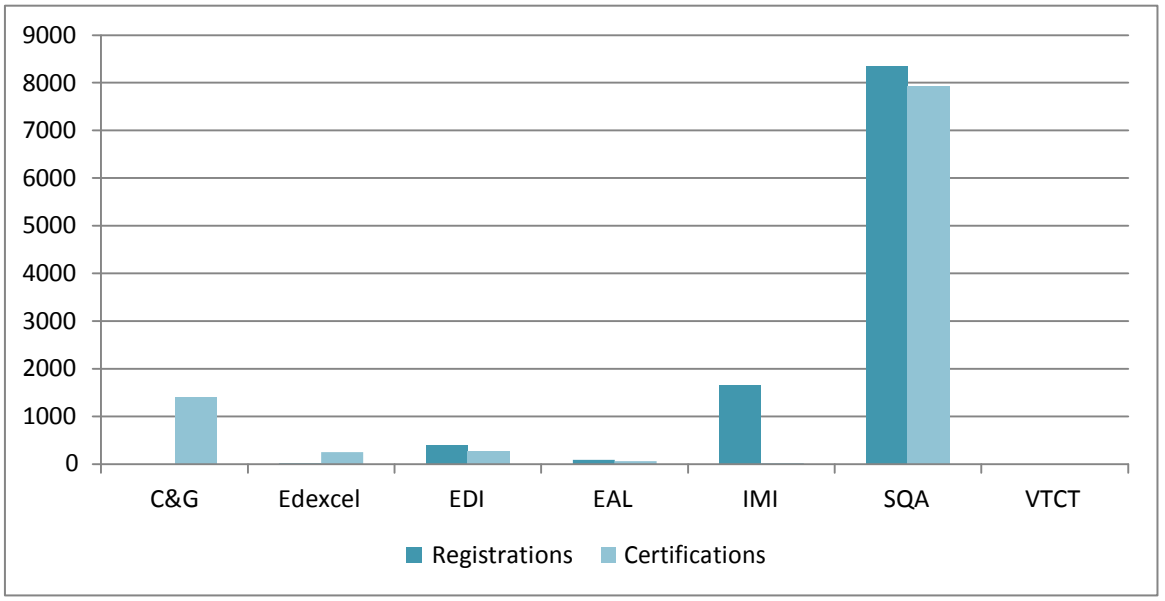


Workplace Core Skills

During the third quarter of 2012–13 there were 135 Workplace Core Skills accredited. These range from SCQF level 3 to SCQF level 6.

There were 10,508 Workplace Core Skills registrations and 9,951 certifications in total. The awarding body with the most registrations and certifications was SQA, with 80% of registrations and 93% of certifications.

Figure 16 — Core Skills by awarding body



The Workplace Core Skill with the most registrations and certifications was Working with Others (SCQF level 4), with 1,395 registrations and 1,480 certifications.

Registrations and certifications for Workplace Core Skills are highest in all categories at SCQF level 4, as shown in Figures 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Figure 17 — Communication Core Skill

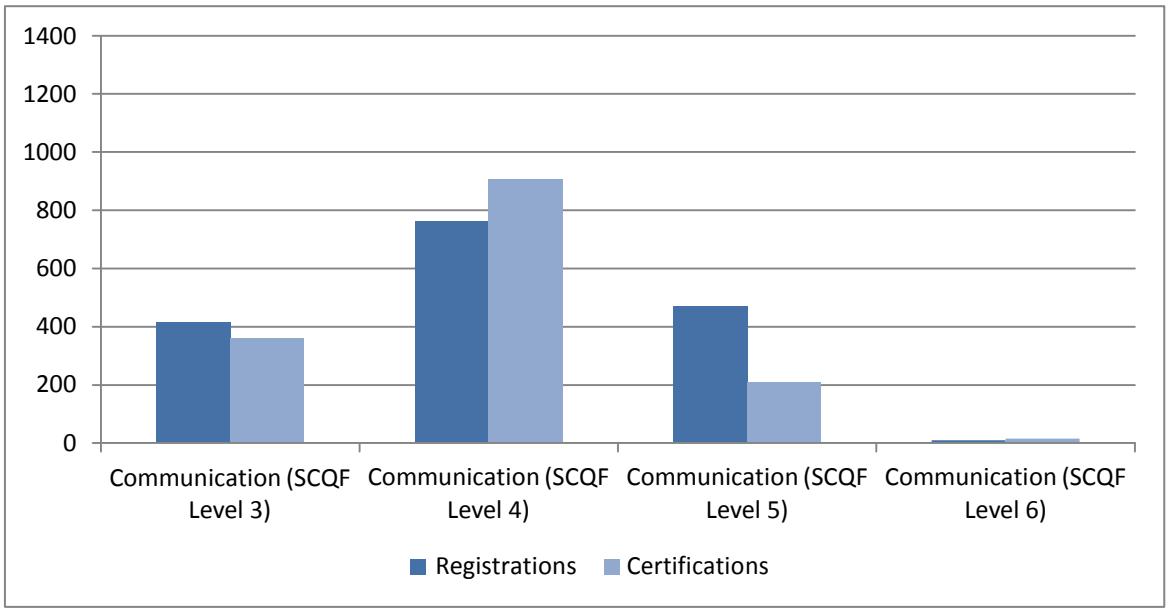


Figure 18 — Information and Communication Technology Core Skill

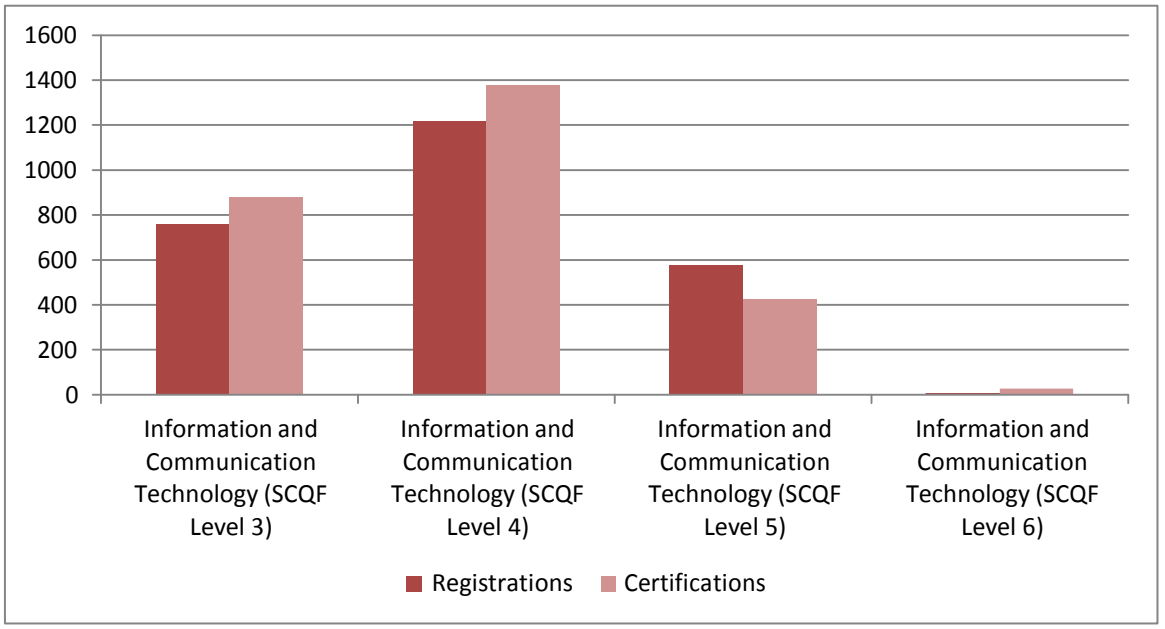


Figure 19 — Numeracy Core Skill

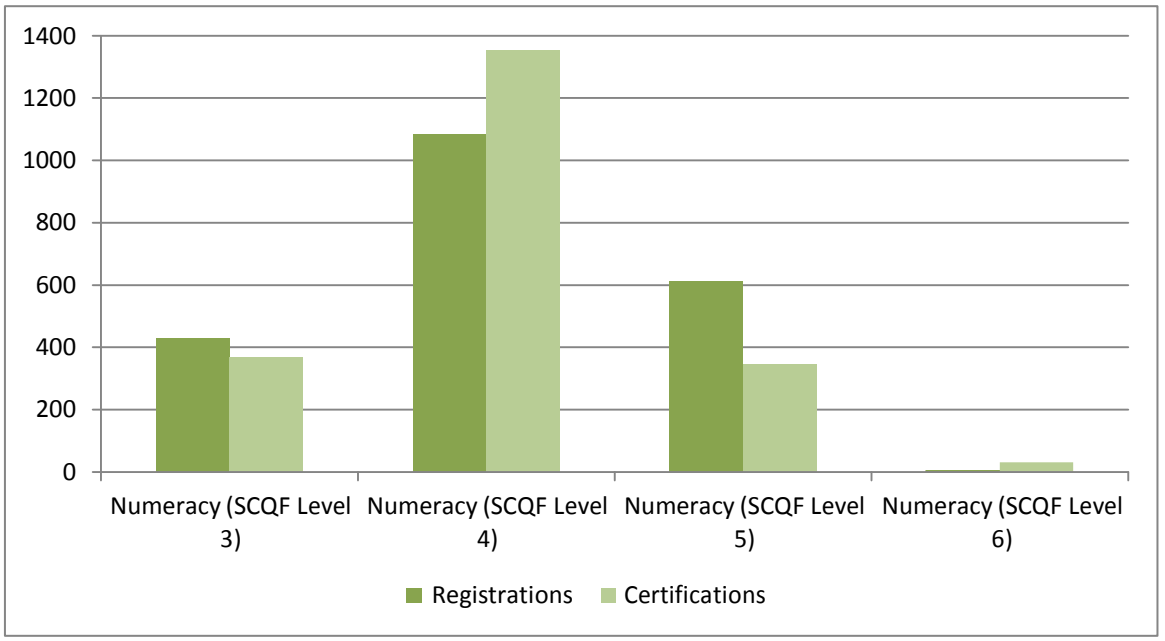


Figure 20 — Problem Solving Core Skill

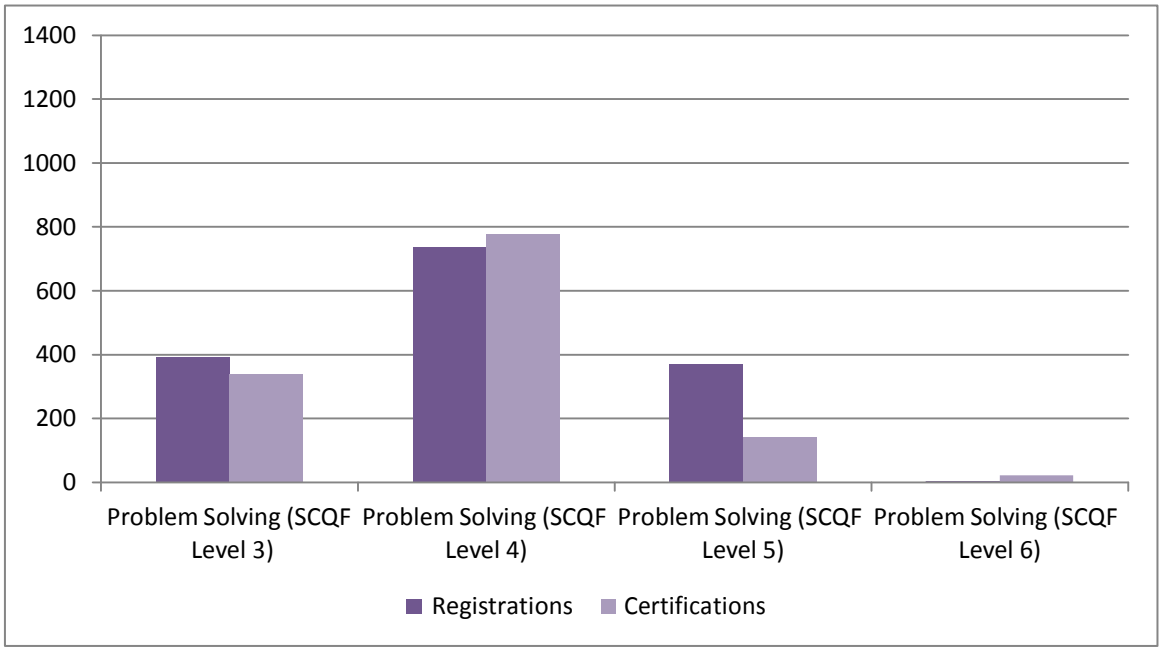


Figure 21 — Working with Others Core Skill

Glossary

Term	Description
Area of competence	There are 11 occupational areas of competence. These range from Tending Animals, Plants and Land, to Engineering to Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill. All SVQs are organised by the area of competence to which they belong.
Certifications	The process by which a centre requests a SVQ certificate for a candidate who has completed the full SVQ.
'Other' accredited qualification	All 'Other' accredited qualifications that are not SVQs or Regulatory and Licensing qualifications.
Registrations	The process by which a centre informs an awarding body that a candidate has commenced working towards an SVQ.
Regulatory and Licensing Qualification	Qualifications which are defined or required by industry regulators, such as the Security Industry Authority, and often underpin licence to practise schemes.
Scottish Vocational Qualification	Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are qualifications which combine skills, knowledge and ability within a specific occupational area and are delivered in a workplace setting. The standards for SVQs are designed by the appropriate sector skills council (SSC).

Awarding bodies

Acronym (if used)	Awarding body
N/A	1st4sport Qualifications
AFS	Alcohol Focus Scotland
AAT	Association of Accounting Technicians
ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
N/A	BIIAB
CYQ	Central YMCA Qualifications CIH
	Chartered Institute of Housing
CMI	Chartered Management Institute
N/A	City & Guilds
EDI	Education Development International plc
ECITB	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
EQL	Equestrian Qualifications GB Limited
EAL	Excellence, Achievement and Learning Limited
FAAL	First Aid Awards Limited
FAQ	Future Awards & Qualifications Ltd
GQA	GQA Qualifications Limited
HABC	Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance
IMI	IMI Awards Limited
IQ	Industry Qualifications

Acronym (if used)	Awarding body
ILM	Institute of Leadership and Management
IRRV	Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation
ITC	ITC First Aid Limited
N/A	Lantra
MPQC	Mineral Products Qualifications Council
NEBOSH	National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health
NOCN	National Open College Network
N/A	PAA/VQ-SET
N/A	Pearson Education Limited (Edexcel)
PMI	Pensions Management Institute
N/A	PIABC
N/A	Rockschool Limited
RAD	Royal Academy of Dance
STA	Safety Training Awards
N/A	Scottish Bakers
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority VTCT
	Vocational Training Charitable Trust
WCSM	Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers