

January 2003

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

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Dear Colleague

### **Consultation on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate — update**

In Autumn 2003 we issued a consultation paper on the Scottish Qualifications Certificate. The paper offered a view of the future of the SQC. It firstly proposed principles on which certification should be based, and then suggested minor improvements which could be implemented in the short term and major changes for the longer term — to ensure that the certificates issued by SQA continue to meet the changing needs of learners. The purpose of this letter is to update you on the feedback from the consultation and advise you of further action.

The level of response to the consultation from centres and other stakeholders was relatively low which may indicate that users are not greatly concerned about the present arrangements or future proposals.

The main points emerging from the consultation responses are:

- 1 There was support for the principles governing certification as set out in the consultation paper, namely:
  - ◆ SQA certificates should be secure, attractive and informative documents.
  - ◆ Candidates should be able to access an up-to-date record of their lifelong record of awards certificated by SQA when they need it.
  - ◆ The information on SQA certificates should be aligned to users' needs and expectations.
- 2 There was support for the proposal to record Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) credit points on SQA certificates. This type of information will start to appear on the SQC (the cumulative lifelong record of SQA awards) from December 2004.
- 3 There was support for the proposal relating to the Best Results Policy. From August 2005 SQA certificates will show the grades that candidates have actually achieved in each diet or on each taking of an external assessment. As at present, fails will not be recorded.

- 4 There was support for the need to rationalise and simplify certificates but no clear consensus on the most appropriate format of certification to achieve these. However, we now have a clear mandate from a variety of users of SQA certificates to push the simplification agenda further and take sufficient time to explore further options in this area.

In addition to the above points and as a result of a separate consultation, SQA is committed to implementing Grade D in August 2004.

We now intend to carry out further work on the simplification and rationalisation of SQA certificates and come back to you with further proposals in Spring 2004.

I would like to thank those who submitted a response to the consultation for their comments and suggestions which are very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Drake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Tom Drake  
Director of Qualifications