



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2007

Subject: Learning and Development HN

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification which has taken place within Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Centres offering the PDA in Training and Development and the HNC in Learning and Development are coping well with the delivery of these new awards, generally using the exemplar assessment materials provided for the core units. Centres designing their own assessments have been making use of the prior verification system and this should be encouraged as much as possible.

Feedback from tutors and candidates indicates that these awards are fit-for-purpose, meeting the needs of candidates and employers. A concern about the lapsing Certificate in Training Practice previously offered by many centres was that it was taught at a higher level than NC. Centres delivering the new award at level 7 report that this is an appropriate level for both new and prospective trainers. There are a few centres still delivering the Certificate in Training Practice, and these centres should be encouraged to change to the PDA or HNC as soon as possible.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Assessment exemplars have been developed for the core units and are being used effectively by centres. Where centres are using their own assessments they are customising them to meet the needs of their client group while still maintaining the integrity of the award.

Candidates are being encouraged to provide evidence from their workplace where possible, making the learning experience more meaningful for them.

An integrated assessment has been produced by one centre to meet the evidence requirements for five units, thereby reducing the assessment workload for candidates and assessors. Advice on possible integration of units is available in the SQA arrangements document.

There is evidence of centres using a variety of assessment methods effectively. One centre used video to gather evidence and this enabled the candidate to see their own performance during assessor feedback. Another centre used a group presentation which helped to develop candidates' core skills. Several of the new HN units could be evidenced effectively using methods such as these.

HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

Learning and Development: Graded Unit DN7M34

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Two centres presented scripts for the Central Verification event, one for the first time. Centres have interpreted the requirements of the unit well and candidates submitted well-written and meaningful reports based on investigations in actual organisations. Feedback from centres showed that the candidates found the unit challenging but enjoyed it, and in some cases their recommendations were being implemented by their organisations.

Although there is an assessment exemplar for the Graded Unit, centres found it more useful to develop their own assessment specifications and marking guidelines. It is anticipated that the centres' specifications will be standardised and an updated exemplar produced.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

There was clear differentiation between the candidates' grades A, B and C, reflecting the effectiveness of the centres' marking schemes.

Centres had produced clear guidelines to candidates, including guidance on project management. There was also evidence of good feedback to candidates.