



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications and
Professional Development Awards**

**Qualification Verification Summary Report 2018
Plastering (Construction)**

Introduction

There was extensive qualification verification activity throughout 2017–2018 for qualification GM7X 23 and GF1T 23 SVQ 3 Plastering (Construction). All centres delivering this qualification underwent a significant transition with regards to how candidate evidence will be assessed.

All candidates registered on GM7X 23 will present evidence of practical competence gathered from their natural working environment, and recorded in a candidate portfolio. To help centre staff make the transition, SQA will offer centres three support visits over the academic session, along with ongoing support in the form of e-mails and phone conversations.

Candidates registered on GF1T 23 will continue to generate evidence via a CREW (Candidate Record of Evidence from the Workplace). Any candidate registered on GF1T 23 will continue to work on the old qualification until their course is complete.

Only candidates who registered in 2017–18 will be on the new qualification.

All verification reports were positive and there was clear evidence that these qualifications were being delivered in a professional and effective manner at all centres.

GF1T 23 SVQ 3 Plastering (Construction)

The following units were verified:

H0C9 12	Curved Plasterwork
H0C5 12	Applying Lightweight Plasters
F6SG 12	Run and Fix Mouldings
F6SD 12	External Finishes
F6SF 12	Producing and Fixing Plaster Fibrous Cast
F6SD 12	Running and Fix Moulds
F6S3 12	Producing a Plaster Piece Mould
HL3V 46	Drywall Materials and Internal Repairs
HK4M 12	Screeds and Straightening

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.1: Assessors and internal verifiers must be competent to assess and internally verify, in line with the requirements of the qualification.

Qualification verification reports for the SVQ and PDA in Plastering confirmed that assessors and internal verifiers at all centres were competent and well qualified (or working towards qualifications for their vocation); all staff also had extensive industry experience.

Almost all staff at the centres verified undertook and recorded appropriate continuing professional development (CPD) activity to ensure they maintained academic and occupational currency and complied fully with the requirements of the assessment strategy. Visiting verifiers recommended, however, that staff log all the CPD they have undertaken.

Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.

All centres visited for the SVQ and PDA in Plastering have effective ongoing processes and procedures in place to review accommodation, assessment procedures, equipment, learning resources and assessment materials. These processes and procedures were being implemented effectively in all centres visited by qualification verifiers. Due to changes within the qualification, most centres had to remodel/restructure practical workshop areas, and the qualification verifier commented on the improvements already or being undertaken.

Category 3: Candidate support

Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

At all centres, evidence was provided to demonstrate that staff were implementing the correct procedures to identify candidates' development/support needs effectively. Most centres undertake diagnostic testing within the first three weeks of the start of the course. The results of these tests enable the centres to decide when and where additional support is required. Centres also use the Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) to identify those candidates who require skills development, including for those candidates working on their PDA.

For those candidates who registered on the SVQ prior to the 2017–2018 session, the effective use of Candidate Records of Evidence from the Workplace (CREWs) ensured that candidates' experience and learning from the workplace was matched to unit requirements at all centres. Moreover, during professional discussions with their assessor/lecturer, candidates were able to identify and discuss areas of the qualification in which they needed to improve and develop.

Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

At all centres visited, SVQ and PDA candidates received well-structured, purposeful feedback/support on their progress. Qualification verifiers found that feedback in almost all centres was positive and constructive to candidates, with some centres promoting candidates to write their own feedback on completed assessments. Assessors provided clear feedback on what had been achieved and, where necessary, identified areas for improvement or skills development. Feedback related to both specialist and generic unit competences.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

All centres that undertook the qualification verification process had well-established assessment and verification processes and procedures in place.

Qualification verifiers' reports stated that all centres' assessors and internal verifiers implemented their centres' assessment and verification procedures effectively.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

All centres visited continue to use SQA's most up-to-date TAP framework to carry out assessments for the apprentices registered on group award GF1T 23. The use of the TAP ensures validity, equitability and fairness in assessment.

Candidates registered on group award GM7X 23 have been working towards collating workplace evidence for their portfolios. Qualification verifiers indicated that assessors were making good progress in guiding and supporting candidates.

Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.

Centres continue to use SQA's TAP framework to document and record candidate evidence. The TAP ensures that evidence is the candidates' own work: a signature from the candidate, the assessor and — on occasion — the internal verifier is required within the feedback sheets.

In almost all centres — before, during and after assessment — photographic evidence was taken to further authenticate the candidates' work.

Centres have been using evidence of competency generated from the workplace or CREWs with industry experts/supervisors to sign off candidate's industrial competence for the SVQ qualification.

Qualification verifiers recommended that staff in one centre ensure all knowledge assessments include the candidate's name and the date on all pages, in case pages become detached.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

Assessment judgements were reported as being both accurate and consistent at all centres delivering the SVQ and the PDA. Both practical and knowledge-based evidence confirmed that candidates were meeting unit requirements and that they were achieving the national standards.

Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.

Qualification verifiers reported that all centres continue to retain candidate evidence and assessment records in line with SQA requirements. In every centre, retention policies exceeded

SQA requirements. All centres complied fully with Qualification Verification Visit Plan requirements in relation to candidate evidence being sampled.

Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres had clear policies and procedures in place for the dissemination of information from qualification verifiers to assessors and internal verifiers. Staff at all centres implemented centre procedures effectively, and there was good evidence of improvements and enhancements being taken to develop assessment practice.

Areas of good practice report by qualification verifiers

No areas of good practice were reported for the SVQ or PDA in Plastering this session.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development were reported for the session 2017–18:

- ◆ Staff to log ALL CPD they undertake (2.1)
- ◆ Ensure all knowledge assessments include candidates' name and the date on all pages in case pages become detached (4.4)