

National Qualifications Support Team Biology (including Human Biology)



Action grid from meeting held on 9 September 2014

Ref.	Agenda/minute title	Notes of discussion/action agreed	Action	Date
1	Welcome and introductions	Qualifications Manager Jonathan Gillies (JG) welcomed everyone to the first Biology NQST meeting.		
2	Roles and remit of NQST confidentiality	JG advised that there will be an annual meeting supplemented with online discussions on the NQST Quicr place — a dedicated secure online forum for this team.		
3	NQST Quicr Place demonstration	Qualifications Officer Paula Greenwood (PG) demonstrated the NQST Quicr place.		
4	Diet 2013–14	JG provided an overview of the Course Report for National 5 Biology. The report is available on SQA's website.		
5	Verification activity 2013–14	Subject Implementation Manager, Jackie Breakenridge (JB) provided an overview of the Key Messages Reports . It was highlighted that an Internal Verification Toolkit will be available on SQA's website in November to give practical advice on how to implement and record internal verification. An outline of the verification activity was provided for session 2014–15. The nominee training for National 3 to National 5 comprised: Outcome 1 reports, Applications, Added Value Units and Thematic approaches to assessment in Cell Biology. Nominees took this information away to upskill colleagues within their authority. This information will be published on SQA's		

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		<p>secure site in October/November.</p> <p>JB advised that she is looking for ideas for a thematic approach to Multicellular Organisms and asked members to send her suggestions.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a lot of knowledge within the DNA and the Genome Unit and centres were finding it difficult to find inexpensive practical work. JG advised that Education Scotland have representation on the NQST and that they are holding a cross-authority writing group in November focusing on Higher Biology/Higher Human Biology. JG will speak with Education Scotland and SSERC to discuss the possibility of producing further guidance on practical work for this Unit.</p> <p>SSERC representative advised that SSERC have produced resource packs for the Higher Biology and Human Biology Assignments.</p> <p>SQA will liaise with SSERC to ascertain the most effective way of sharing this information with centres.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>JG/SSERC/Education Scotland</p> <p>JG/SSERC</p>	Ongoing
6	Overview of Understanding Standards activity	<p>JG advised that there will be four Understanding Standards events across the country in November.</p> <p>The exemplification materials produced will be published on SQA's secure site in due course.</p>		