NQ Verification 2015–16
Key Messages Round 1

01 ## Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	National Courses — Engineering Science
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H23B 74	National 4	Electronics and Control
H23A 75	National 5	Engineering Contexts and Challenges
H23B 75	National 5	Electronics and Control
H23D 75	National 5	Mechanisms and Structures
H23B 76	Higher	Electronics and Control

02 ## Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost all of the centres that were verified made use of the SQA-produced Unit assessment support Pack 2 (Unit by Unit approach). One centre also devised its own instrument of assessment using Unit assessment support Pack 1 (Portfolio approach) as a basis for this. However, where a centre's own instrument of assessment is used, care must be taken to ensure that each of the Assessment Standards is cross-matched with the evidence to ensure full Unit coverage. As such, it is recommended that centres take advantage of SQA's prior verification facility.

In terms of validity of approach, the SQA-produced Unit assessment support pack is always acceptable, but centres must ensure that they use the current version.

To aid the verification process, centres should ensure that any administrative paperwork related to their own assessments is clear and well laid out. It is recommended that the Assessment Standard number and result are recorded next to the evidence used for the centre's assessment decision.

Assessment judgements

Centre assessment judgements were largely in-line with national standards. However, there were some instances where errors in candidate work were marked as correct and that the Assessment Standard was met (errors found in this sample included vectors with incorrect directions, answers with no units and arithmetic errors). This leads to a 'Not Accepted' verification decision.

Likewise, if a candidate does not have evidence to meet an Assessment Standard, then they cannot be assessed as having passed it. Again, this leads to a 'Not Accepted' verification decision.

This is also something which should have been highlighted through effective internal verification systems.

03 ▸ Section 3: General comments

It was clear from the sample that centres understand the purpose of judging evidence tables and are using them appropriately. However, more care should be taken when determining whether candidate evidence meets the Assessment Standards or not.

Evidence, for assessment purposes, can come from any source and doesn't need to be from a specific assessment task.

Although centres had evidence of their internal verification policy, and its use, the prominence of assessment errors indicates that the effectiveness of these policies needs to be evaluated and improved upon.