

11 October, 2012

To: SQA Co-coordinator

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

Contact Name: Bobby Elliott at Glasgow
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Dear colleague

ADVANCED VOCATIONAL AWARDS IN COMPUTING

I am writing about a number of developments relating to vocational Computing qualifications at SCQF Level 7 and above. A separate letter provides similar information on non-advanced (SCQF Level 6 and below) awards in this sector.

This letter contains important information about the following topics:

- 1. HNC Computing**
- 2. HN Review**
- 3. Graded Unit review**
- 4. HN 2.0 project**
- 5. E-Commerce units**
- 6. HNC/D Information Technology**
- 7. Review of PDAs**
- 8. Qualification Review Team**
- 9. Qualifications Support Teams**
- 10. Heads of Computing event**
- 11. Satisfaction survey**

I would be grateful if you would ensure that appropriate staff are made aware of the contents of this letter.

1. HNC Computing

The above award has been revised as part of the HN Review (see next). A new award (GF3E 15 HNC Computing) was introduced in August 2012 to replace the existing award (G7GL 15 HNC Computing). The original award has now entered its lapsing phase; the final date of certification will be 31 July 2015. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

2. HN Review

In addition to the HNC (see previous), the HN Review will also revise the following awards:

G7TT 16 HND Computing: Software Development
G7TR 16 HND Computing: Technical Support
G7DX 15 HNC Computer Networking
G7DY 16 HND Computer Networking & Internet Technology

A validation event has been arranged for December for the following awards, which will replace the above qualifications (subject to successful validation):

HND Computing
HND Computing: Networking
HND Computing: Software Development
HND Computing: Technical Support

I hope to have the new awards available to centres from Spring 2013.

We are currently carrying out market research in support of this development. Please complete this short questionnaire if you have not done so already.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hnreviewcollquan>

I will write to you again, once the validation is complete, with definitive information about the new awards and details about the launch event, which will take place in May or June of next year.

Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development.

3. Graded Unit review

We recently reviewed the contents of a number of Graded Unit specifications to check them for clarity and consistency. As a result of this review, the following Graded Units will be revised:

FP25 35 Interactive Media: Graded Unit 2
F8VG 34 Computer Games: Graded Unit 1
F8VH 35 Computer Games: Graded Unit 2.

These units will be revised to clarify the marking scheme, and improve the clarity of advice regarding re-assessment and remediation. The revised units will be published in January 2013. The existing unit specifications will continue to be current until 2015.

4. HN 2.0 project

This project commenced in April. It aims to provide advice to centres about the use of social media for assessment within the new HNC/D awards. An alternative assessment exemplar will also be produced to exemplify this advice. Documentation will be published in Spring 2013. Contact me (bobby.elliott@sqa.org.uk) for more information about this project.

5. E-Commerce units

We recently reviewed our e-commerce provision. As a result, we will be publishing a series of units entitled *E-Commerce: Principles & Practice* at SCQF Levels 6, 7 and 8 in January 2013. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about these new units.

6. HNC/D Information Technology

This qualification was first introduced in 2007 and is now due to be reviewed. We will begin this process in the near future. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) if you wish to join the Qualification Development Team (QDT). I would anticipate that the updated awards will be available to centres from August 2014.

7. Review of PDAs

We are about to review a number of Professional Development Awards that were first introduced in 2007. These are:

PDA Computer Support (SCQF Level 7)

PDA Desktop Support (SCQF Level 7)

PDA Systems Administration (SCQF Level 7)

PDA Network Technology (SCQF Level 8)

Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) if you wish to join the Qualification Development Team (QDT). I would anticipate that the updated awards will be available to centres from August 2014.

8. Qualification Review Team

Computing is one of four subject areas selected to pilot enhancements to HN Qualifications to improve articulation with degree programmes. A Qualification Review Team (QRT) was formed to take this forward, comprising representatives of colleges, universities and other special interest groups. The QRT will look at the structure, contents, assessment and guidance relating to the new HNC Computing with a view to improving these to facilitate progression to university. Please contact me (bobby.elliott@sqa.org.uk) for more information about this project.

9. Qualifications Support Teams

We are currently seeking members for the Qualifications Support Team (QST). The QST is responsible for ensuring that qualifications are properly supported in terms of teaching, learning and assessment materials. The QST is also responsible for the on-going maintenance of awards. Please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) if you would like more information.

10. Heads of Computing event

The annual Heads of Computing event will take place on 23 November. This regular event is intended for college staff. You can register for this event at the following URL:

<http://headsofcomputing2012.eventbrite.co.uk/>

11. Satisfaction survey

The annual satisfaction survey is now open. I would appreciate if you would take a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SQAComputing12>

We use the survey to monitor our performance, and improve the service that we provide to centres.

The Computing team maintains a blog where you can keep up-to-date with the latest developments relating to vocational Computing qualifications. The URL is:

<http://sqacomputing.blogspot.com>

You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/sqacomputing>.

The team participate in an online community to support SQA vocational Computing qualifications. A wide range of practitioners, including teachers, lecturers, External Verifiers and others, are members of this community. If you are not already a member, I would urge you to subscribe at the following website:

<http://www.groupspaces.com/sqacomputing/>

I enclose a diagram that illustrates the portfolio of vocational Computing awards, which may assist you with your forward planning.

Thank you for your continued support for SQA awards.

Yours faithfully



Robert Elliott
Qualifications Manager