

16 September, 2015

To: SQA Co-coordinator

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

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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 about non-advanced awards (SCQF Level 6 and below).

This letter contains important information about the following topics:

- 1. Digital Skills (Higher National Unit)**
- 2. HNC/D Interactive Media**
- 3. HNC/D Information Technology**
- 4. HNC/D Computer Games Development**
- 5. HNC Computer Science**
- 6. HNC Data Analytics**
- 7. PDA Software Development**
- 8. Qualifications Support Teams**
- 9. Lead Person Network**
- 10. uShare**

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

### **1. Digital Skills (SCQF Level 7)**

A new Higher National Unit entitled “Digital Skills”, at SCQF Level 7, has recently been validated and published. This general purpose Unit is suitable for a wide range of awards that require learners to acquire essential digital skills. It has been added to the HNC Computing framework (as an option). Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this Unit.

### **2. HNC/D Interactive Media**

This award is currently being reviewed. The revised award will be available to centres from **August 2016**. The existing award will continue to be certificated until **August 2018**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development.

### **3. HNC/D Information Technology**

This award is currently being reviewed. The revised award will be available to centres from **August 2016**. The existing award will continue to be certificated until **August 2018**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development.

### **4. HNC/D Computer Games Technology**

This award is currently being reviewed. The revised award will be available to centres from **August 2016**. The existing award will continue to be certificated until **August 2018**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development.

### **5. HNC Computer Science**

This new award is about to commence development. We are currently seeking members for the Qualification Development Team (QDT). This award will be available to centres from **June 2016**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development or to volunteer for the QDT.

### **6. HNC Data Analytics**

This new award is about to commence development. We are currently seeking members for the Qualification Development Team (QDT). This award will be available to centres from **June 2016**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development or to volunteer for the QDT.

### **7. PDA Software Development**

This new award is currently in development. A Qualification Development Team has been formed and is devising the suite of awards, which will be available at three levels (SCQF Levels 7, 8 and 9) (subject to validation). The qualification will be available to centres from **February 2016**. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information about this development.

### **8. 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. The Team meets once per year, with on-going online communications between meetings. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) if you would like more information or request to join the QST.

### **9. Lead Person Network**

The annual meeting of the Lead Person Network (LPN) will take place in **January 2016**. A specific date and venue have still to be decided. Further information will be provided *via* the Lead Person Network. Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for more information about the Network.

## 10. uShare

SQA has recently launched a new service for centres. *Ushare* enables teachers and lecturers (and others) to share relevant and useful links to online learning resources. We are presently populating *Ushare* with resources for NPA Cyber Security and NPA Digital Passport. Additional qualifications will follow. The URL for this service is: <http://ushare.education>. Please contact Lynne Malcolm ([lynne.malcolm@sqa.org.uk](mailto:lynne.malcolm@sqa.org.uk)) for more information.

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

<http://blogs.sqa.org.uk/computing/>.

This blog provides detailed information on past, present and future developments relating to Computing qualifications.

I enclose a diagram that illustrates the current 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