

11 October, 2012

To: SQA Co-ordinator

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

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Dear colleague

NON-ADVANCED VOCATIONAL AWARDS IN COMPUTING

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

This letter contains important information on the following topics:

- 1. National Certificate: Computing: Technical Support (SCQF Levels 5/6)**
- 2. National Certificate: Computer Games Development (SCQF Levels 5)**
- 3. National Certificate: Computer Games: Creative Development (SCQF level 6) and National Certificate: Computer Games: Software Development (SCQF level 6)**
- 4. National Progression Awards: Mobile Technology (SCCQF Levels 4/5/6)**
- 5. National Progression Award: Professional Computer Fundamentals (SCQF Level 6)**
- 6. Internet Safety (SCQF Level 4)**
- 7. Review of PC Passport**
- 8. Review of NC Digital Media Computing**
- 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. GD7P 45 National Certificate in Computing: Technical Support at SCQF Level 5**
GE48 46 National Certificate in Computing: Technical Support at SCQF Level 6

These awards are now available to centres. They have been designed to articulate with the more technical Higher National awards, such as *HND in Computer Networking & Internet Technology*. The Arrangements are available on the SQA website. Please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) for further information about these qualifications.

2. GC8R National Certificate: Computer Games Development at SCQF Level 5

This award is now available to centres. It has been designed to articulate with the corresponding higher level awards in the same area. The Arrangements are available on the SQA website. Please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

3. National Certificate: Computer Games Creative Development at SCQF level 6 National Certificate: Computer Games: Software Development at SCQF level 6

These new awards have recently been validated and will be available to centres from January 2013. Please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) for further information about these qualifications.

4. National Progression Awards: Mobile Technology (SCCQF Levels 4/5/6)

The validation event for the above awards was held in June, and the qualifications are expected to be available to centres from January 2013. In the meantime, please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) if you would like more information.

5. National Progression Award: Professional Computer Fundamentals (SCQF Level 6)

The validation event for the above award was held in June, and the qualification is expected to be available to centres from January 2013. Please note that this qualification is linked to the *Microsoft Technology Associate* examinations. Contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) for more information.

6. Internet Safety (SCQF Level 4)

This National Unit was updated in August 2012. The existing Unit (F0H5 10) has been replaced by a more up-to-date Unit (H1F6 10). New teaching, learning and assessment material has been devised to support the new Unit. The original Unit is now in its lapsing period but existing centres may continue to offer it until 31 July 2014 (the date of the last certification). Please contact Caroline Douglas (caroline.douglas@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

7. Review of PC Passport

PC Passport was introduced in 2004 and revised in 2007. The current awards are about to be reviewed. We are currently assembling a Qualification Design Team (QDT) to carry out this work. I would appreciate if you would contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) if you would like to be involved in this development. The updated suite of awards will be available to centres from August 2014.

8. Review of NC Digital Media Computing (SCQF Levels 4, 5 and 6)

NC in Digital Media Computing was first introduced in 2007. The current awards are about to be reviewed. We are currently assembling a Qualification Design Team (QDT) to carry out this work. I would appreciate if you would contact Hilary Weir if you would like to be involved in this development. The updated awards will be available to centres from August 2014.

9. Qualifications Support Team

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 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, please subscribe at the following address:

<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