

22 September, 2014

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. Separate letters provide similar information about advanced awards (SCQF Level 7 and above) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications.

This letter contains important information about:

- 1. Computer Basics (National Units)**
- 2. Digital Literacy (National Progression Award)**
- 3. PC Passport (National Progression Award)**
- 4. Digital Passport (National Progression Award)**
- 5. Computing with Digital Media (National Certificate)**
- 6. Qualifications Support Teams**
- 7. Heads of Computing event**
- 8. Regional college lead person**

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

1. Computer Basics (National Units)

I would like to draw your attention to two new National Units that are designed to introduce learners to the fundamentals of computing. These are:

- H3LJ 09 Computer Basics (SCQF Level 3)
- H3LJ 44 Computer Basics (SCQF Level 4).

The Units are designed to provide foundation knowledge and skills in computing, encompassing both online and offline competences. They are appropriate to a wide range of vocational and academic programmes. Both unit specifications are available on the SQA website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk>).

2. Digital Literacy (National Progression Award)

This National Progression Award (SCQF Level 3) was first introduced in 2007 and will be reviewed during the current academic session. We are currently seeking members for the Qualification Design Team (QDT). Please contact me for more information or to volunteer for the QDT. The revised award will be available to centres from **August 2015**.

3. PC Passport (National Progression Award)

The review of this award has been delayed as a result of a new development (see my letter of 7 May). The review will now take place during the current academic session. We are currently seeking members for the Qualification Design Team (QDT). Please contact me for more information or to volunteer for the QDT. The revised award will be available to centres from **August 2015**.

4. Digital Passport (National Progression Award)

This new award is currently being piloted in a restricted number of centres. It is available at three levels: SCQF Levels 4, 5 and 6. Please note that only centres involved in the pilot will be approved to offer the Group Award. The qualification will be available to all centres from August 2015. Pilot centres will have access to a range of support materials and receive tailored support during the pilot period. Please contact Hilary Weir (hilary.weir@sqa.org.uk) for more information about this award or to find out more about the pilot.

The component Units are available to all centres (now). These are:

- H7E9 44 Information Literacy (SCQF Level 4)
- H7E9 45 Information Literacy (SCQF Level 5)
- H7E9 46 Information Literacy (SCQF Level 4)
- H7EA 44 Network Literacy (SCQF Level 4)
- H7EA 45 Network Literacy (SCQF Level 5)
- H7EA 46 Network Literacy (SCQF Level 6)
- H7EB 44 Social Media Literacy (SCQF Level 4)
- H7EB 45 Social Media Literacy (SCQF Level 5)
- H7EB 46 Social Media Literacy (SCQF Level 6)

The Unit specifications are available on the SQA website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk>).

5. Computing with Digital Media (National Certificate)

This award (available at SCQF Levels 4, 5 and 6) replaces *NC Digital Media Computing*. The Group Award Specification can be found on the SQA website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk>). We will continue to allow entries for the previous awards until 31/07/15 (for SCQF levels 4 and 5); 31/07/17 (for SCQF level 6), when the award will go into lapsing. The last date of certification for *NC Digital Media Computing* at SCQF levels 4 and 5 will be 31/07/2017, and 31/07/2019 for the award at SCQF level 6.

Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) for many of the Units within this revised award are currently available (through SQA Secure) or under development. A list of available ASPs is published on SQA website and updated on a monthly basis (<http://www.sqa.org.uk>).

6. 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 me for more information about the work of the QST or to volunteer to join it.

7. Heads of Computing event

This session's annual event will take place in January 2015. Further information will be supplied through the lead person network (see below).

8. Regional college lead person

As a result of college re-organisation, I am seeking to identify a lead person for each college. This person would be the subject contact for the college (for advanced and non-advanced provision). I would anticipate that this person would cascade information within their regional centre. Please note that this communication channel would not replace any of the existing means of communication with lecturing staff. **I would appreciate if you would let me know the designated person for your college (by e-mail).**

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>.

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