

4 September, 2015

To: SQA Co-ordinator

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

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 about advanced awards (SCQF Level 7 and above).

This letter contains important information about:

1. **PC Passport**
2. **Digital Passport**
3. **Cyber Security**
4. **Cyber Security Fundamentals**
5. **Digital Literacy**
6. **Computer Refurbishment**
7. **Qualifications Support Teams**
8. **Lead Person Network meeting**
9. **Ushare.**

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

1. **PC Passport (National Progression Award)**

This qualification is currently being reviewed. The revised award will be available to centres from **January 2016**. The current award will remain open for entries until January 2018. The final date of certification for the current award will be January 2019. The **launch event** for this revised award will take place on **Friday, 27 November**. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

2. **Digital Passport (National Progression Award)**

This suite of awards (at SCQF Levels 4, 5 and 6) is now available. Scottish schools and colleges are automatically approved to offer this qualification. A range of support materials is available to assist with the delivery of this award. The **launch event** for this new award will take place on **Friday, 27 November**. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

3. Cyber Security (National Progression Award)

This new suite of National Progression Awards is now available (at SCQF Levels 4, 5 and 6). Scottish schools and colleges are automatically approved to offer this qualification. A range of support materials are currently being developed. The **launch event** for this new award will take place on **Thursday, 1 October**. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

4. Cyber Security Fundamentals (National Unit)

A new National Unit entitled *Cyber Security Fundamentals (SCQF Level 4)* is being developed and will be available to centres from **October 2015**. This introductory Unit is designed for all learners to provide essential knowledge and skills in online safety and data protection. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

5. Digital Literacy (National Progression Award)

This Level 3 qualification is currently being reviewed. The revised award will be available to centres from **January 2016**. The current award will remain open for entries until January 2018. The final date of certification for the current award will be January 2019. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

6. Computer Refurbishment (National Progression Award)

This new award (at SCQF Level 4) is now available to centres. Scottish schools and colleges are automatically approved to offer this qualification. Support materials are currently being produced. Please contact Helen Zhang (helen.zhang@sqa.org.uk) for further information.

7. 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.

8. Lead Person Network meeting

This year's event 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 Lead Person Network.

9. 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) 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. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Elliott', written in a cursive style.

Robert Elliott
Qualifications Manager