



QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards

Minutes of meeting held at 10am on Friday 1 September 2023 on MS teams

Present:

Ania Sosnowska (Ayrshire College), Christine Hutcheson (Edinburgh College), Colin McMorris (Forth Valley College), Conor Larkin (Glasgow Clyde College), Donna Cousins (Perth College), Doug Fraser – Chair (North East Scotland College), Jane Manson (Inverness College), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Laura Young (External Verifier), Marcelle McIlroy (Glasgow Kelvin College), Melanie McConnell (West Lothian College), Rhianna Curran (West Lothian College), Sandra Dickson (Glasgow Kelvin College), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland)

Not Present:

Alan McDowall (Ayrshire College), Derek Steven (New College Lanarkshire), Fiona Jackson (Forth Valley College), Hunia Arshad (Edinburgh College), Joe Burman (Perth College), Julia Wright (Dundee and Angus College), Kenneth Boyd (North Highland College), Kevin Spears (Fife College), Laura Gibson (SQA), Leann Tait (North East Scotland College), Mary McGibbon (West College Scotland), Nicola Levitt (External Verifier), Pamela Duke (Dundee and Angus College), Sam Bright (Moray College)

Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Joe Burman, Julia Wright and Nicola Levitt.

1. Actions from last meeting

Jonathan confirmed that centre-devised prior verified assessments that were no longer valid, due to the revised subject guidance for session 2023-24, had been removed from the SQA secure website. All centres that submitted the centre-devised assessments have been contacted directly to advise that the assessments are no longer valid.

Jonathan asked QST members to review any centre-devised assessments to ensure that they meet the revised subject guidance for 2023-24.

2. Subject guidance 2023-24

Jonathan confirmed that subject guidance for 2023-24 had now been published on the subject pages of the SQA website. Subject guidance has been developed for the following group awards:

- [HNC in Applied Sciences at SCQF level 7](#)
- [HND in Applied Sciences at SCQF level 8](#)
- [HND in Applied Biological Sciences at SCQF level 8](#)
- [HND in Applied Chemical Sciences at SCQF level 8](#)
- [HND in Industrial Biotechnology at SCQF level 8](#)
- [PDA in Laboratory Science at SCQF level 7](#)

All other science group awards, including the Nat 5 and Higher science national courses, have returned to full course requirements for session 2023-24.

Jonathan shared and explained the subject guidance for both the HNC in Applied Sciences at SCQF level 7 and the HND in Applied Sciences at SCQF level 8.

3. Artificial intelligence

SQA's Digital Assessment Services team were not available to attend the QST meeting. Jonathan advised that a communication about artificial intelligence was due to be published in the next few weeks. Laura will invite colleagues from SQA's Digital Assessment Services team to the next QST meeting.

Doug and Jane both highlighted the challenges and approaches taken to authenticate candidate evidence.

Jonathan noted that a session discussing generative artificial intelligence and how it may impact qualifications and assessment in future was due to take place at SQA Connections week. Further information is available via the hyperlink below:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/102548.html>

4. AOB

Jonathan advised that the next meeting of the HN science QST would be arranged for early December.

ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
Laura to invite a member of SQA’s Digital Assessment Services team to the next meeting of the HN Science QST.	
Laura to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for the next meeting of the HN Science QST.	