

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

B137/1.12 iii

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT – 18 MARCH 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management held at 1pm on Thursday 25 February 2021 by video conference.

Members

- * Mr D Middleton (Chair)
- * Ms F Robertson (Chief Executive)
- * Ms E Craig
- * Ms A Davis
- * Mr S Hagney
- * Mrs J Handley
- * Dr W Mayne
- * Mr H McKay
- * Mr G Smith
- * Mr R Stewart
- * Dr K Thomson

Officers

- * Ms J Blair
- * Mr M Baxter
- * Mr L Downie
- * Mr J McMorris
- * [REDACTED]
- * Dr G Stewart
- * Mrs D Mahmoud

Observers

- [REDACTED] Committee Manager
- [REDACTED] Interim Corporate Office Support
- Ms M McKerrell, Head of QA (NQ)
- [REDACTED] Statistician

* Indicates present on the call

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including:

- [REDACTED] who would be providing interim support to the Corporate Office;
- Ms McKerrell, Head of QA (NQ); and
- [REDACTED] Statistician.

The Chair noted that no apologies had been received.

1.11 Declaration of Any Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest raised in relation to the agenda.

Whilst not a conflict of interest, it was acknowledged that Dr Thomson and Mr Hagney held an interest through their positions as Heads of Centre.

1.12 Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising that would not be covered in the course of the agenda.

The Chair handed over to the Chief Executive to provide a brief update on the position around NQ, reporting that the Education Recovery Group had been discussing the terms of a more substantive return to school for NQ students.

Dr Stewart provided an update on Higher National and Vocational qualifications, reporting that the HNVQ Group had continues to meet on a fortnightly basis as well as the Ministerial Taskforce that had been stood up to discuss college deferrals. Dr Stewart noted that the amendments to assessment arrangements for SQA's 750 vocational qualifications were on

track to meet the commitment made of publishing by the end of February. A series of communications would also be issued to provide clarity to the system on what commitment had been made, what action had been taken and what action was planned for the coming weeks. The Chief Executive noted that, as a member of the Ministerial Taskforce, she would continue to feedback to the Board on discussions.

BEO21 ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION MODEL: NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW EXERCISE - STRATEGIES FOR SELECTION OF CENTRES AND COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Ms Blair, Director of Operations, introduced the paper to the Board, setting out two potential options for the approach to select some national courses from every centre as part of the national quality assurance review exercise. She noted that the paper also included different approaches for the collection of assessment evidence for the courses that have been selected from each centre and a detailed timeline in which the quality assurance review exercise must take place.

Ms Blair highlighted that the paper had been presented to the Qualifications Committee on 23 February 2021, who had acknowledged it as within the wider context of the Alternative Certification Model and maintained teacher judgement and demonstrated attainment as being core to awarding in 2021. The Committee had advised that option 1 be adopted as the selection strategy for the national quality assurance exercise and that the hybrid model used for collection of assessment evidence from centres, noting the timeline associated with the hybrid model.

Ms Blair then handed to Ms McKerrell, who provided a presentational overview of the national quality assurance exercise that would be carried out, in order to ensure that the national standard is applied across the system. Ms McKerrell clarified the level of QA that would be carried out, noting the constraints involved.

The Board welcomed the clear presentation, noting that it helped to define the decision of the Qualifications Committee and highlighted that the need for a national QA process with sectional and geographical spread was critical.

The Board discussed and considered the details and implications of each option, agreeing the importance of the messaging and communications around this to ensure that the system is supported in delivery.

The Board agreed the recommendations of the Qualifications Committee to proceed with Option 1 selection strategy with the hybrid model of evidence submission.

The Chair thanked members for their time and input to discussions at the meeting and noted that the Board would meet again on Thursday 4 March to discuss the approach to the appeals process for awarding 2021.