



## **QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards**

**Minutes of meeting held at 10am on 28 April 2025 (via Microsoft teams)**

### **Present:**

Anne Marie Allen (West College Scotland), Colin McMorris (Forth Valley College), David Whitley (External Verifier), Doug Fraser (Senior External Verifier), Fiona Jackson (Forth Valley College), Hunia Arshad (Edinburgh College), Jane Manson (Inverness College), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Julia Wright (Dundee and Angus College), Laura Gibson (SQA), Laura Young (North East Scotland College), Michael Balzo (New College Lanarkshire), Michael McKenna (SQA), Sandra Dickson (Glasgow Kelvin College), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland), Susan Bunton (External Verifier).

### **Welcome and apologies**

Jonathan welcomed all QST members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Anu Mittal, Conor Larkin and Derek Steven.

### **1. Actions from last meeting**

All actions were confirmed as being completed.

### **2. Session 2024-25**

No issues were raised and QST members confirmed that the subject guidance continues to provide the flexibility required.

### **3. NC in Applied Sciences**

Sandra Spence presented a proposal outlining the potential for greater flexibility in the NC in Applied Sciences frameworks by increasing the choice of mandatory science units. Sandra advised that six mandatory credits from two sciences would still be required and that it may not be necessary for all three sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) to be revised. QST members had no objections to the proposed changes.

David advised that it would be an attractive option to incorporate some of the new physics units. However, David noted there would be challenges in aligning the physics units, specifically half-credit units.

Jonathan requested that QST members discuss the proposal with their colleagues to gather feedback on its value and to identify any potential changes they would like to be considered. Jonathan requested that QST members provide feedback on the proposal by Friday 23 May 2025. Sandra Spence agreed to send the presentation to Laura Gibson so it can be shared with QST members.

#### **4. FA in Scientific Technologies**

Julia raised concerns regarding the difficulties in securing placements and learners being given sufficient time to develop the necessary skills and competencies required.

Fiona advised that Forth Valley College previously delivered this qualification but stopped due to the same challenges. Laura Young also noted that North East Scotland College are facing similar difficulties.

Jonathan advised that discussions had taken place with SDS regarding the Foundation Apprenticeship in Scientific Technologies, with SDS looking to engage with the sector through consultation. Jonathan advised that he would update QST members if there were any developments related to the FA in Scientific Technologies.

#### **5. Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34)**

Julia proposed revising the Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34) unit to allow use of the jamovi statistics package that is currently used by universities. Julia advised that jamovi was free and open source. Jonathan noted that there was value in revising the unit to ensure it aligned with university courses. QST members expressed no objections, though they advised that they would need to consult with colleagues who delivered the unit. Julia agreed to provide a high-level overview of the proposed changes. Jonathan advised that he would liaise with the mathematics and statistics EVs to discuss the proposed revisions.

#### **6. AOB**

Jane raised concerns with regard to some minor amendments to SQA ASPs. Jane agreed to liaise with Laura Gibson to discuss any required amendments.

Jonathan advised that the next meeting of the HN Science QST would be scheduled for mid to late June 2025. Laura Gibson will send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date and time for the next meeting.

## ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
QST members to discuss the proposed changes to the NC in Applied Sciences frameworks with their colleagues. Feedback should be submitted to Laura Gibson by Friday 23 May 2025.	
Sandra Spence to share the NC in Applied Sciences presentation	28/4/2025
Laura Gibson to share Sandra Spence's presentation with QST members	2/5/2025
Julia to send a high-level overview of the proposed changes to the Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34) unit	30/4/2025
Jonathan to liaise with the mathematics and statistics EVs to discuss the proposed revisions to Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34) unit	
Jane to liaise with Laura Gibson to discuss any required amendments to SQA ASPs.	28/4/2025
Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date and time for the next meeting, which will be scheduled for mid to late June	