



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

**Minutes of meeting held at 10am on 13 June 2025 (via Microsoft teams)**

### **Present:**

Anne Marie Allen (West College Scotland), Anu Mittal (North East Scotland College), Christine Russell (Edinburgh College), Colin McMorris (Forth Valley College), Conor Larkin (Glasgow Clyde College), David Whitley (External Verifier), Doug Fraser (Senior External Verifier), Jane Manson (Inverness College), John Burns (Ayrshire College), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Julia Wright (Dundee and Angus College), Laura Young (North East Scotland College), Leann Tait (External Verifier), Michael Balzo (New College Lanarkshire), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland)

### **Welcome and apologies**

Jonathan welcomed all QST members to the meeting.

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

All actions were confirmed as being completed.

### **2. NC in Applied Sciences**

At the previous meeting, 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.

Jonathan noted that feedback received confirmed the need to increase the choice of mandatory biology units. However, there was not as much demand for changes to the chemistry and physics units.

The next step is for subject-specialists to meet to discuss and agree on the new choice of mandatory units. Separate meetings will be arranged for biology, chemistry and physics at the start of the next academic session. Jonathan asked QST members to seek volunteers to represent each college. QST members should nominate volunteers by 31 August 2025.

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

At the previous meeting, Julia proposed an update to the Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34) unit/ASP to allow the use of a software package as part of the assessment.

Jonathan noted that feedback received agreed with the proposed change. This included feedback from the mathematics and statistics external verifiers.

Jonathan asked QST members to liaise with their university contacts to seek confirmation that the proposed change would not have any impact on articulation. QST members should provide any feedback by 30 June 2025.

### **4. Updates to ASPs and understanding standards materials**

Doug highlighted recent amendments to ASPs and understanding standards materials. The following have been revised:

ASP

- Fundamental Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills (H92X 34)
- Physics for Life Sciences (J5RT 34)

Understanding standards

- Marking guidance for organic chemistry assessments

The NPA science understanding standards materials will also be revised to provide further advice, guidance and support. These changes will be progressed during the summer break.

### **5. AOB**

Jane raised awareness of a new approach to the presentation as part of the Laboratory Skills for Science Industries (H91V 34) unit. Learners presented a poster on their graded unit to an audience as part of an exhibition.

Whilst QST members did not have any concerns with the new approach, it was noted that careful planning was required to ensure that all of the requirements were met. This included the standardisation of assessors.

Jane noted that she would submit a plan for prior verification to ensure all requirements were met.

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

#### **ACTION GRID**

Action	Date completed
QST members to nominate volunteers for the NC in Applied Sciences subject working groups by 31 August 2025	
QST members to liaise with their university contacts to seek feedback on the proposed changes to the Statistics for Science 2 (H8XV 34) unit by 30 June 2025	
Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date and time for the next meeting	