

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT – 28 MAY 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Management held at 1.45 pm on Thursday 21 May 2020 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 (from 2pm)
- * Mr R Stewart
- * Dr K Thomson

Officers

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

Observers

- Ms A Kerr, Committee Manager
- Ms L Joyce, Head of Service

* Indicates present on the call

1 OPENING REMARKS**1.1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting including Ms Lesley Joyce, Head of Humanities, Care and Services, SQA

Apologies had been received from Ms Blair.

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 Mr Hagney and Dr Thomson held an interest through their positions as Heads of Centre. Furthermore, it was noted that Ms Craig, Ms Davis and Mr Hagney had children studying at National 5 and Higher levels. The Chair noted that members of the Board would never be put in a position directly to affect the outcomes relating to their centres or family members.

1.12 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Board meeting on 14 May 2020 were approved as an accurate record subject to one amendment.

1.13 Matters Arising

It was noted further guidance on freestanding NQ units was due to be issued that week. There were no matters arising that wouldn't be covered in the course of discussions.

2 **DIET 2020**

2.1 **Update**

The Chief Executive provided a short update on a range of current issues, including the announcement by the Scottish Government on the re-opening of schools in August. She highlighted that attention was being given to diet 2021, including discussion at the Covid-19 Education Recovery Group and it would be important for the Board to consider and discuss further.

The Chief Executive reiterated the importance of adherence to deadlines to deliver certification as planned on 4 August. SQA would continue to communicate with centres in the run up to the estimate submission deadline on 29 May and provide support as required.

2.2 **Engagement with Centres in the Centre Moderation Process**

The Advisory Council, Qualifications Committee and Board had separately discussed and approved the Alternative Certification Model (ACM). This had included the suggestion that SQA explored the feasibility of building engagement with centres into the centre moderation process.

Ms Joyce summarised the issues covered in the paper. Being willing to engage in dialogue could appear constructive but the practicalities were by no means straightforward once issues like fairness and consistency, were fully considered. It was agreed not to rule engagement out at this stage, but to reconsider the practicalities of such a dialogue once estimates are received and the extent of significant divergence from general expectations assessed.

The Board thanked Ms Joyce for her presentation. Following discussion, it was agreed that this would be considered further following the receipt of estimates.

3 **FOR NOTING**

3.1 **Response to the Education and Skills Committee**

The Board noted the response from the Chief Executive to the Education and Skills Committee that had been issued on 21 May 2020.

The Chair thanked members for their time and contributing to the discussion, noting that the Board would meet again on Thursday 28 May 2020.