The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.
National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

DF2R 11, 12 and 13    Analysis and Development of Performance
DF2T 12 and 13    Performance

General comments

Performance Unit
Centres continued to have a clear understanding of the requirements necessary to achieve national standards in terms of the Performance Unit.

The 10 centres that were verified in this Unit successfully achieved the necessary standard and were well prepared in terms of organisation and having the necessary materials ready for verification.

Practical performance verification is well established and embedded within centres. Staff and candidates were comfortable with the necessary procedures required when carrying out this process.

There was clear evidence of consistency between assessors and staff in centres in terms of practical performance marks being awarded when assessing candidates.

All centres had their results Accepted. No changes were required.

Analysis and Development of Performance Unit
Twelve centres were selected for visiting verification. All centres achieved the necessary standard required to pass the Unit.

Centres continued to find visiting verification for the Analysis Unit very helpful as they were able to discuss any problems face to face with the verifier, compared to sending work for central verification. Staff were often grateful for comments and feedback that verifiers make regarding the work presented.

Thirteen centres were selected for central verification. All centres verified in this Unit successfully achieved the necessary standard.

There was clear evidence of consistency between assessors and staff in centres in terms of the standard required to successfully achieve the Unit.

Whilst overall numbers for both visiting and central verification were down it was reassuring that all had achieved the necessary standard.
Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

It was evident that centres were well prepared and had taken time to look at the performance examples on the DVD exemplar that was sent to all schools. This greatly aided the verification process.

In the Analysis and Development of Performance Unit, assessors had a clear understanding of the Unit specification as all necessary procedures and materials were used.

In central verification, all centres knew the requirements for the Unit and provided correct and suitable evidence for the process to take place. Most centres used SQA NAB 001, NAB 002 and NAB 003, which allowed the process to proceed successfully.

Evidence Requirements

In the Performance verification, all centres had the necessary paperwork completed and available for the verifier before the process began. This ensured the process ran smoothly and prevented any unnecessary delay.

For both central and visiting verification for the Analysis Unit, all centres had submitted the correct documentation completed appropriately.

Administration of assessments

Centres are now well established in the good practice of internal cross-verification. This ensures consistency in the application of criteria. This was the case for both Units.

For Performance, most centres had spreadsheets showing candidates’ marks in the activities they have been involved in. This often helps where it is necessary to look at an individual candidate’s performance.

For the Analysis Unit, most centres had a detailed breakdown of each candidate’s marks for each Outcome, as well as marks achieved for the overall Unit.

Areas of good practice

In the Performance Unit, colleagues often assisted by organising the actual verification allowing the member of staff carrying out the process to simply concentrate on this. This allowed the whole process to flow smoothly on the day.

In the Analysis Unit, many staff provided excellent feedback and comments to candidates on the quality of work. This clearly showed how judgements were made and in the majority of cases helped the verifier in assessing the centre’s work.
Specific areas for improvement
Centres are encouraged to complete grids on any NABs they use to show total marks being achieved by candidates. This greatly helps the verifier when assessing work. Often marks were indicated for individual questions but the grids were left blank.