

SQA Quality Assurance

Higher National and Vocational
Qualifications



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Quality Assurance Processes

The four quality assurance processes support centres to ensure the value and integrity of SQA Higher National, customised and vocational qualifications, measured against a set of clearly defined criteria



Types of Quality Assurance

Approval

Verification

Development Visits

Prior Verification



SQA's Principles of Quality Assurance

External Quality Assurance is:

- Open, fair and transparent to all involved
- Aimed at risk reduction
- Fit for purpose and proportionate
- Intelligence led
- A shared responsibility with stakeholders where this is consistent with the maintenance of national standards
- Constantly reviewed and improved



Approval and Development Visits

Pre Approval Support via Business Development Team

External Verifier allocated to visit your centre to conduct approval visit or remote/desk based approval conducted based on defined criteria e.g. existing approvals within the same subject area

4-6 week process for qualification approval

Follow up free Development Visit for first approval within a verification group within 6 months of approval



Systems and Qualification Verification

Systems Verification – minimum every 3 years, risk based approach

Qualification Verification

- Regulated Quals – annually
- Non Regulated Quals – intelligence risk based approach



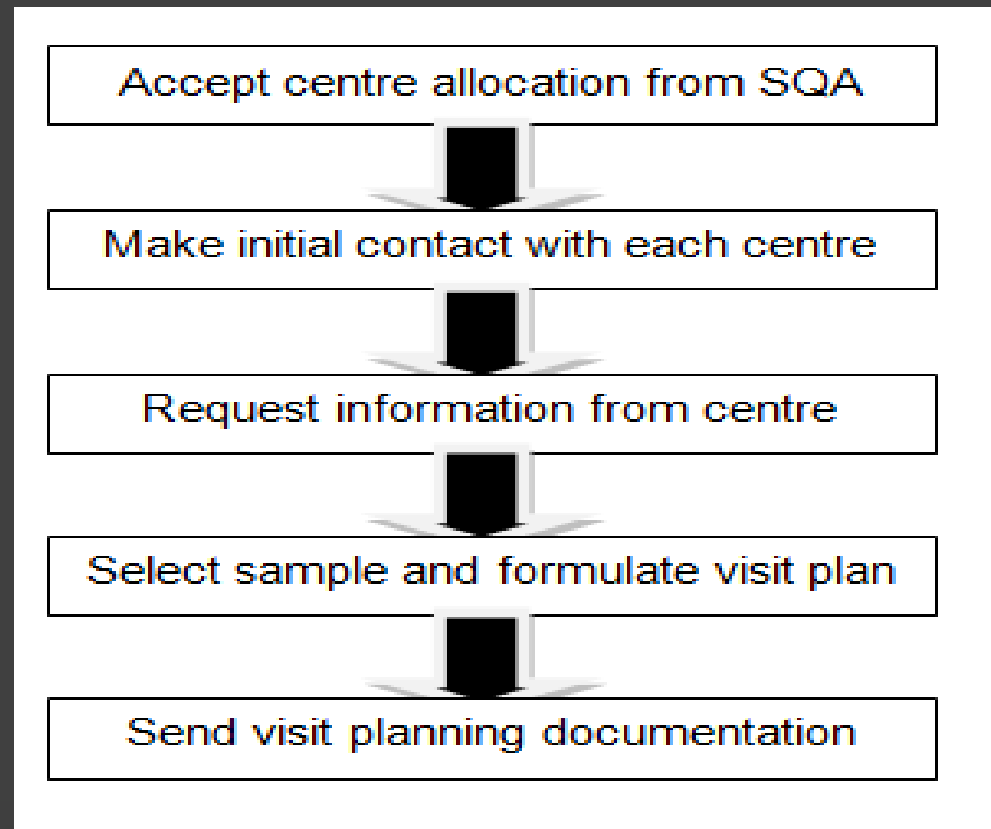
Qualification Verification Planning: EV process

2 weeks to accept

2 weeks to make initial contact

6 weeks from acceptance
of allocation

Minimum 2 weeks before visit



Qualification Verification Outcomes: Feedback at the visit

EVs provide verbal feedback on QV activity at the visit

EVs must complete an agreed action form and issue to centre where the are criteria marked Amber or Red

EVs advise of outcome rating but do not impose sanctions



Qualification Verification

Reports are written by EV, Signed off by Senior EVs.

Reports are reviewed by SQA and appropriate sanctions imposed where appropriate

Reports issued within 15 working days of the visit

EVs will request either electronic evidence or a return visit for non compliant criteria



SQA Quality Assurance

Questions?

