



Department
for Education

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Respond by 10 May 2013
Ref: Department for Education

Government proposals to reform vocational qualifications for 16-19 year olds

Government proposals to reform vocational qualifications for 16-19 year olds

This consultation presents proposals to establish rigorous standards for Level 3 vocational qualifications taken by 16-19 year-olds in schools and colleges from September 2014, so that only high value qualifications count in performance tables.

To Schools, Post-16 institutions; Higher Education institutions, Employers; Employer organisations; Parents and members of the public with an interest

Issued 7 March 2013

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: 16-19vqCONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can telephone: 0370 000 2288 or use the ['Contact Us'](#) page.

1 Background and Context

- 1.1** Last year, following Professor Alison Wolf's review of Vocational Education, we substantially reformed the list of qualifications taken by 14-16 year-olds at Key Stage 4, to ensure that only high value qualifications which meet a rigorous standard are counted in performance tables. This has had a significant effect on the quality of the vocational courses which students are being taught, and their opportunities to progress post-16.

We are now consulting on proposals to establish rigorous standards for Level 3 vocational qualifications taken by 16-19 year-olds in schools and colleges from September 2014, so that only high value qualifications count in performance tables.

We are seeking views on proposals to:

- i) Establish a process and set of characteristics by which vocational qualifications could be judged for inclusion in 16-19 performance tables;
- ii) Introduce two separate categories of vocational qualification – ‘applied general’ and ‘occupational’, in addition to academic qualifications;
- iii) Only include applied general and occupational qualifications that meet pre-defined standards in future performance tables.

The consultation also seeks views on whether the Government should fund learners who are over 19 to take vocational qualifications that meet the new characteristics but do not conform to the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

The reforms will not prevent other qualifications being offered where these are best suited to individual students’ interests and abilities.

Following the result of the consultation the Government will publish a list of high value 16-19 vocational qualifications from autumn 2013 and annually thereafter, as we have done for 14-16 year-olds since 2011.

Please follow the link below and choose the relevant consultation from the list provided, to read the full consultation document:

www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/consultations

2 How to respond

2.1 Consultation responses can be sent by email to:

16-19vqCONSULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Department for Education
Exclusions Team
Level 2
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

3 Additional copies

3.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

4 Plans for making results public

4.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in summer 2013