

CORPORATE REPORT

Business Impact Target 2018-19

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions (NQRP)
summary

ofqual

Regulator: Ofqual

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 21 June 2018 – 20 June 2019

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
Measures certified as being below <i>de minimis</i> (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)	<p>Ofqual made changes to its regulatory functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised rules and guidance regarding confidentiality of assessment materials. The total costs were estimated to be a £7.0 million one-off cost and £1.0 million per annum (an EANDCB of £1.6 million) across 158 awarding organisations. • Implementation of the changes needed to deliver reformed functional skills qualifications. The financial burden was estimated as a one-off cost of £2.2 million and £640,000 per annum across 16 awarding organisations¹. • Proposed new assessment arrangements for GCSE Computer Science (9-1). The estimated net impact was a one-off cost of £88,000 across four exam boards. However, an annual saving of £350,000 until 2020, when the new arrangements are in place is anticipated. • Changes to the review of marking, moderation and appeals of GCSE, AS, A level and Project qualifications. The estimated costs for updating rules and guidance was a total of £22,500 across five awarding organisations. <p>Ofqual estimated minimal costs for the implementation of new rules for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSEs, AS and A level music and dance • Technical Qualifications • End-Point Assessments • Essential Digital Skills qualifications. <p>Ofqual estimated minimal costs for changes to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued development and functionality of its IT system, the AO Portal • A revised list of qualification types • Changes to the recognition process to reduce burden on potential awarding organisations • Technical qualification rules added to the online Ofqual handbook.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Regulations, Decisions and Directives 	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for these exclusions.

¹ This is based on the June 2018 regulatory impact assessment. Currently 11 awarding organisations are offering new Functional Skills qualifications.

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
<p>and other international obligations, including the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and EU Withdrawal Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures certified as concerning EU Withdrawal Bill operability measures • Pro-competition • Systemic Financial Risk • Civil Emergencies • Fines and Penalties • Misuse of Drugs • Measures certified as relating to the safety of tenants, residents and occupants in response to the Grenfell tragedy 	
Casework	<p>Ofqual has undertaken casework activity in the following areas which have involved some engagement with / requests for information from awarding organisations.</p> <p>Ofqual can report the following enforcement activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One notice of a Monetary Penalty (£175,000 issued with a Notice of Cost Recovery (£11,855). • Two directions to awarding organisations to take specific action • Nine undertakings by awarding organisations, accepted by Ofqual, setting out action they will take to ensure ongoing compliance with the General Conditions of Recognition. • Special Conditions imposed in six cases on five awarding organisations to support potential investigations, or as part of the enforcement process, and in two further cases for new organisations as part of the recognition process. • Entry and Inspection Conditions imposed in three cases, although one was withdrawn before execution. <p>Ofqual received 83 applications or enquiries to the Exam Procedures Review Service (EPRS) during the period. Seven completed applications required a substantive response from the awarding organisations before the case could be concluded, including three that required an EPRS hearing.</p>

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
	<p>Ofqual completed 31 audit visits, six investigation visits and issued 100 recognition application decisions. In the 2018/19 financial year, Ofqual handled 391 complaints about awarding organisations and received 94 whistleblowing disclosures.</p>
Education, communications and promotion	<p>Ofqual communicates regularly with awarding organisations to keep them informed of Ofqual's existing and proposed regulatory requirements and for transparency purposes. This is done through stakeholder events, workshops and via a range of media activities including Portal articles, Responsible Officer letters, publications and guidance on the Ofqual website. Ofqual held its annual conference to meet with the regulated qualifications community and engage on key topics.</p> <p>The key areas of regulation Ofqual communicated about included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of our rules - through 'Ofqual explains' videos. • Findings from audits - high-level summaries of findings from audits shared with awarding organisations. • New Ofqual logo - use of the new Ofqual logo on certificates.
Activity related to policy development	<p>Ofqual formally consulted on all the entries referred to in the <i>de minimis</i> section above. In addition the following proposed changes have also been consulted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderation and verification of centre assessment judgements. • Reform of the Exam Procedures Review Service. • Digital Functional Skills. <p>Research activity: Key areas of research Ofqual has undertaken that has involved engagement with/requests for information from various awarding organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderation and verification - to gain deeper understanding of moderation practices, processes and mark scaling. • Improving awarding - to develop improved methods for maintaining GCSE and A level grading standards. • Summer awarding monitoring - to monitor the summer series of examinations. • Grading - Ofqual published a report exploring grading in Vocational and Technical qualifications competence-based assessment. • Fee Transparency - Ofqual issued a call for evidence from awarding organisations on qualification fee information.

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualification Price Index - Ofqual issued a request for pricing information from awarding organisations to create a new pilot research project looking at changes in qualification prices. • Inter-subject comparability - to consider whether there were grounds for an adjustment to standards in A level modern foreign language or science qualifications. <p>Evaluation of reform - Ofqual is gathering information from awarding organisations and teachers to help us evaluate the impact of new rules implemented as part of the reforms to GCSE, A and AS level qualifications.</p> <p>National Reference Test (NRT) - For the first time in summer 2019, Ofqual will use NRT results to consider whether to adjust grade standards in GCSE English language and/or maths.</p>
Changes to management of regulator	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.

* For detailed guidance on the exclusion categories, please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-regulation-framework>



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