

24 May 2017

Dear Responsible Officer,

The use of the regulators' logos on certificates for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications

GCSEs, AS and A levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are changing, which means that in most subjects there will be differences across jurisdictions. As the regulators of qualifications in each jurisdiction, we are overseeing these changes: Ofqual in England, Qualifications Wales in Wales, and the Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland.

This letter is about which of the new GCSEs, AS and A levels will be regulated by each regulator and how this should be reflected in the logos that are included on certificates.

The certificate issued to a student following successful completion of a qualification indicates which regulator regulates that qualification. This allows students, if they wish, to see which requirements are in force and to which regulator they can direct any queries or complaints.

Ofqual only regulates those reformed GCSEs, AS and A levels designed to meet its new rules. In contrast, not only do Qualifications Wales and CCEA regulate those GCSEs, AS and A levels designed to meet their own requirements, but they also regulate some qualifications designed to meet the requirements of other regulators as well.

Each regulator has a requirement that its logo should only appear on students' certificates for the qualifications that it regulates. These requirements apply to all regulated qualifications. In particular, the position for new GCSEs, AS and A levels is set out below. Ofqual will communicate separately about how this requirement applies to their other regulated qualifications.

For GCSE, AS and A level qualifications designed to meet Ofqual requirements:

- a. the Ofqual logo must appear on all certificates
- b. where the exam board is regulated by Qualifications Wales then (unless the exam board has surrendered its recognition by Qualifications Wales for that qualification) the Qualifications Wales logo **must** appear on all certificates awarded to learners in Wales, and **can** also appear on **all** certificates awarded to learners elsewhere.
- c. where the exam board is regulated by CCEA to award GCSEs, AS and A levels in Northern Ireland, the CCEA logo **must** appear on certificates in Northern Ireland. In the context of the open qualifications market in Northern Ireland, the CCEA logo **can** also appear on **all** certificates.

For approved qualifications designed to meet Qualifications Wales' requirements:

When awarded in Wales:

- a. the Qualifications Wales logo must appear on certificates
- b. the CCEA and Ofqual logos must not appear.

When awarded outside of Wales:

- a. the Qualifications Wales logo must appear along with a statement to clarify that Qualifications Wales does not directly regulate awards made outside of Wales.
- b. the CCEA logo may appear alongside the Qualifications Wales logo.
- c. the Ofqual logo must not appear.

For qualifications designed to meet CCEA requirements:

- a. only the CCEA logo will appear on certificates
- b. the Qualifications Wales and Ofqual logos must not appear.

Qualifications Wales and CCEA qualifications in England

GCSEs, AS and A levels developed to meet the requirements set by Qualifications Wales or CCEA will not meet Ofqual's regulatory requirements for these qualifications. That means if a body recognised by Ofqual to award GCSEs, AS and A levels wants to award these qualifications in England then it will need to alter its recognition by Ofqual to exclude the relevant qualifications from the scope of its recognition. Otherwise it would be in breach of Ofqual's rules by doing so.

As both Qualifications Wales and CCEA do not regulate qualifications beyond their jurisdictions, that would mean that when such a qualification was awarded in England, it would not be subject to regulation by any of the qualifications regulators.

Effect on exam certificates in Wales

We want to ensure that where a regulator's logo appears on a certificate it means the qualification is regulated by that regulator. Exam boards must not include a regulator's logo on a certificate where any one of the qualifications listed are not regulated by that regulator. This applies even if some of the qualifications listed are regulated by that regulator.

However, in 2017, most students in Wales will be taking a mixture of 'legacy' qualifications (regulated by all three qualifications regulators) and reformed ones (only regulated by Qualifications Wales). Providing separate certificates for each student to reflect the differences in who regulates the qualification would cause a significant increase in the number of certificates issued in Wales in this year.

In order to reduce the number of certificates students will receive and ease the regulatory burden on exam boards, Ofqual intends to allow its logo to appear on some GCSE, AS and A level qualification certificates where it regulates some but not all the qualifications awarded. This will be in summer 2017 only to reflect the unusual position this year. To do this, Ofqual will place a "Special Condition" on affected exam boards. This will require an

exam board offering a mixture of qualifications regulated by different organisations to make clear where a student is receiving a certificate that contains a mixture of qualifications regulated by different organisations, and to include details of how students can check who regulates individual qualifications.

Yours sincerely,



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