

## Regulated Qualifications

NOCN is recognised to deliver Regulated Qualifications in the UK by Ofqual, CCEA and Qualifications Wales. NOCN also offers regulated qualifications overseas.

This update is based upon the Ministerial Directive issued on 9 April 2020 for vocational and technical qualifications including Functional Skills in England; it includes the requirements subsequently set by Ofqual as the regulator for England.

### Calculation of results - Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications:

Following the publication of the Ministerial Directive on 9 April 2020, NOCN is working with Ofqual to develop alternative arrangements for the awarding of NOCN qualifications to enable learner progression in life and work within the current government guidance. For additional information please see government news awarding vocational and technical qualifications this summer.

Government guidelines set out in a Letter from Secretary of State for Education - VTQs that 'assessments cannot proceed as planned this Spring and Summer' and states the measures to be taken to reduce the impact of the pandemic. NOCN is implementing these measures and confirm that learners due to complete assessments for NOCN qualifications between March and July 2020, will not be expected to take outstanding assessments. Instead NOCN will issue a calculated result. This calculated result will be based on a range of evidence and data capture. NOCN will contact centres shortly to inform them about evidence requirements for impacted learners.

### Ofqual Consultation

Ofqual have consulted on the exceptional arrangements that they have set out for awarding vocational and technical qualifications, and general qualifications. Further information on the consultation here: [Ofqual Consultation VTQs](#). The consultation closed on 8th May 2020 and the outcomes of the consultation will be published in due course. NOCN will inform centres of the process for centres to calculate grades once we receive confirmation of the consultation outcomes. NOCN is working closely with Ofqual and other awarding organisations and will update centres shortly to inform them about evidence requirements for impacted learners.

### Quality Assurance

NOCN offers arguably the broadest range of qualifications and alternative routes for both experienced workers and new entrants to the jobs market. Our continuous program of development and improvement will continue during this COVID-19 situation, to keep our qualifications fresh and up to date.

We know that individuals will want to continue with their learning and assessments where possible. NOCN will facilitate this by providing online assessment as usual, IT systems, certification and full office support during this time and we will continue to provide Quality Assurance services.

NOCN appreciates that centres will need to ensure their processes are safe for staff, and learners, and that COVID-19 will provide great challenges for continued routine delivery. The attached [FAQs](#) outline NOCN guidance for alternative arrangements and how centres can submit requests for special considerations for this period.

To keep centres, learners and NOCN staff safe, all *face-to-face* visits have been cancelled with immediate effect as per Government announcements and official advice over COVID-19. NOCN will continue to support centres and quality assure but will employ contingency arrangements for remote external quality assurance activities. If you require an EQA visit or remote sampling in the next two to three months please contact [assurance@nocn.org.uk](mailto:assurance@nocn.org.uk). The quality assurance team will discuss how this can be done in a safe manner whilst ensuring fairness to your learners. The attached [EQA COVID-19 Contingency – Remote EQA Visits and Remote Sampling](#) outlines our contingency plan for this period and provides guidance to centres on what remote EQA visits will involve.

We believe that while assessments are taking place, we have to provide monitoring of the assessments to ensure the quality of our qualifications is maintained and will continue to do this via remote platforms. Our EQAs and office-based quality assurance team will be available to answer questions and queries during this period.

We are working with our Awarding Organisation peers to develop new assessment arrangements due to the Coronavirus outbreak and will notify you of these as soon as possible. Enhanced monitoring will be conducted once the lock down is ended.

Please contact us if you need help or support rolling these out remotely on [assurance@nocn.org.uk](mailto:assurance@nocn.org.uk).

## **Certificates**

We are continuing to produce and issue certificates in the usual way, dispatching in batches via the Post Office's registered mail to Training Centres' main sites.

If you are a Training Centre and you are having difficulty receiving certificates due to the COVID19 situation, please arrange a redirect with the Post Office, or please let us know an alternative address through our email: [nocn@nocn.org.uk](mailto:nocn@nocn.org.uk) or please call 0300 999 1177 (Option 5).

**If you are a learner or an employer, please contact your Training Centre for your certificates.**

## Functional Skills

Following the publication of the Ministerial Directive on 9 April 2020, NOCN is working with Ofqual to develop **alternative arrangements for the awarding of Functional Skills Qualifications**, based upon calculated results to enable learner progression in life and work within the current government guidance. For details, please click here:

<https://www.nocn.org.uk/what-we-do/functional-skills/>

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact our Functional Skills team via 0300 999 1177 (Option 5), or the following emails:

Kelly-Ann Wickens [Kelly-Ann.Wickens@nocn.org.uk](mailto:Kelly-Ann.Wickens@nocn.org.uk)

## ESOL – Skills for Life

Following the publication of the Ministerial Directive on 9 April 2020, NOCN is working with Ofqual to develop alternative arrangements for the awarding of ESOL Skills for Life Qualifications to enable learner progression in life and work within the current government guidance. For additional information please see [government news awarding vocational and technical qualifications this summer](#).

Government guidelines set out in a [Letter from Secretary of State for Education - VTQs](#) that ‘assessments cannot proceed as planned this Spring and Summer’, and states the measures to be taken to reduce the impact of the pandemic. NOCN is implementing these measures and confirm that learners due to complete their ESOL Skills for Life assessments between March and July 2020, will not be expected to take their assessments. Instead NOCN will issue a calculated result.

This calculated result will be based on a range of evidence and data capture. NOCN will contact centres shortly to inform them about evidence requirements for impacted learners.

## Youth Work

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has announced temporary amendments to its assessment strategy for Youth Work qualifications, effective from 18th March 2020, due to the continuing impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19). [Details can be viewed here](#).