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Carl Hassell
Via Email to:
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Date 10th March 2021

Dear Carl

Re: CPCS Management Committee VQ grant concerns

Thank you for your letter of 8th January 2021 outlining the concerns raised by the CPCS Management Committee in relation to Plant Operations unit achievement grants. I apologise for the amount of time it has taken me to respond, I'm sure you can understand the need for us to undertake a thorough review.

As you are aware, the decision to withdraw the grant for plant unit achievements was taken in September 2020 as part of an urgent review of CITB costs in light of the need to reduce Levy in support of the industry, and the significant uncertainty posed by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Following the concerns you have raised, we have carried out an additional review of the options available, and considered factors such as multi-skilling. We have concluded that the best approach is to re-instate the grant for additional plant VQ units, whilst including them within the regular VQ entitlements. Specifically this means:

- An entitlement to one Plant Operations Level 2 vocational qualification, plus up to three additional plant VQ units per lifetime (grant rate £300 per additional unit)
- Access to other plant vocational qualifications at level 2, 3 and 4
- Any additional Plant VQ units and qualifications to be counted as part of the normal entitlement to grant for up to a maximum of 4 achievements at each level per individual

The change will be implemented immediately and will be in place early in the new financial year. We will also be offering backdated support i.e. contacting those who had applications for VQ units declined (during the period during which they were not available) and allowing businesses to make backdated claims.

Our web site will be updated to reflect the changes once they are in place. If you would be willing to help with getting the message to relevant businesses we would welcome your support.

Once again, thank you for your feedback.

Yours sincerely
Jonathan Chivers
Director of Product Management