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.

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 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 for learners, and that COVID-19 will provide great challenges for continued routine delivery. The attached FAQs outline NOCN advice and guidance for alternative arrangements and detail 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. 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. Please contact assurance@nocn.org.uk if you need any support or would like to arrange a visit.

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.

**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.

**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/](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)