

# Decisions on Entry Level qualifications: removing unnecessary regulations

## Consultation outcomes



From August to October 2016, we consulted on proposals to withdraw our regulations which apply only to Entry Level qualifications – the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’.

We set out why we judged the regulatory requirements were not necessary for the effective regulation of qualifications at Entry Level and represented an unnecessary regulatory burden. We explained our view that they duplicated many of the requirements in our other regulations and, where they added further regulatory requirements, they could stop awarding organisations designing qualifications that would best meet users’ needs. We argued that the additional requirements set out in the ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ could, therefore, have a detrimental effect on the validity of Entry Level qualifications and lead to extra costs for awarding organisations.

We have reviewed the responses to the consultation and are now announcing our decisions.

### Summary of our decision

Following consultation, we have decided that:

- We will remove the current ‘Criteria for Entry Level qualifications’ with effect from 16 December
- We will not introduce any new regulations specifically for Entry Level qualifications

## Consultation response

To help us evaluate our proposals we launched a public consultation that ran from 5 August 2016 to 7 October 2016. We asked whether respondents agreed with our proposal to remove the existing regulations and separately whether they agreed that we should not introduce new Entry Level specific regulations.

We had a very small number of responses to our consultation. Of the 11 respondents, all agreed with our proposal that we should remove the existing regulations (with 8 of those strongly agreeing). On the proposal not to introduce additional new regulations all 11 agreed (with 9 of those strongly agreeing)

Although the number of respondents was small they included 2 large representative bodies, 1 for schools and colleges and 1 for regulated awarding organisations. Other respondents were individual awarding organisations, training providers and teachers.

As well as asking if respondents agreed with our proposals we asked them to consider whether there were additional issues or options that we had overlooked. Respondents did not highlight any new areas for consideration.

We also asked those who responded to the consultation about the equality impact of our proposals and we have updated our impact assessment in response. No new issues were raised in the consultation. We have published our final equalities impact assessment separately.<sup>1</sup>

In the light of the responses we have decided to proceed with the approach we proposed and remove 'Criteria for Entry Level qualifications' from our regulatory framework.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/entry-level-qualifications-removing-unnecessary-regulations>

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