

SQA Accreditation

Accredited Qualification Zero Uptake Policy

Policy	<p>This policy will cover all SQA accredited qualifications and will target qualifications with no uptake.</p> <p>SQA's Accreditation Coordination Group (ACG) can remove the accreditation of any qualification that has no uptake and where there is no clear, justifiable evidence from the awarding body of candidate demand for the qualification for a period of two consecutive years.</p> <p>As set out within SQA Accreditation's <i>Regulatory Principles</i> guidance, the awarding body should carry out a regular and systematic review of their qualifications, to ensure that the qualifications continue to meet the needs of the Scottish market.</p>
Why do we need this policy?	<p>This policy will allow SQA Accreditation to ensure that accredited qualifications are relevant to the qualification needs of Scotland.</p>
How does the policy apply and to whom/what does it apply?	<p>This policy applies to accredited qualifications.</p>

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1 Status

This policy has been approved by SQA's Accreditation Committee (AC).

The Accreditation Committee is authorised by the Scottish Government to delegate authority to the Accreditation Coordination Group (ACG).

The ACG is an internal group made up of members of SQA Accreditation and provides regular updates to the AC.

2 Process

Every six months, SQA Accreditation will review registrations and certifications identifying those accredited qualifications where there has been no uptake.

Qualifications that have been accredited but have had no candidate uptake for a period of two consecutive years will be reviewed and consideration will be given to whether withdrawal from the framework should be recommended to the Accreditation Co-ordination Group (ACG).

3 Details

Once a qualification has been identified for review, SQA Accreditation will make contact with the awarding body to notify them of the intention to review the accreditation of the qualification.

The awarding body will be given an opportunity to supply SQA Accreditation with a comprehensive rationale to support the continuation of the qualification.

SQA Accreditation will investigate whether there are justifiable reasons for no uptake and/or appropriate promotional activities being implemented by the awarding body to support uptake in the near future. Research will take into consideration:

- Information supplied at the point of accreditation
- Evidence of sufficient Unit uptake rather than demand for or activity on the full qualification
- The rationale provided by the awarding body to support the continuation of the accreditation of the qualification

The results of the research will be the subject of a report to the ACG which will make a decision on whether the information provided justifies the continued accreditation of the qualification or whether it should be subject to withdrawal.

The ACG will inform the relevant awarding body of the decision to either:

- Continue the accreditation of the qualification
- Continue the accreditation of the qualification with a stipulation for further review at another specified point during the period of accreditation
- Withdraw accreditation

The Awarding body will be given three months' notice of intention to withdraw.

Where the ACG decides to allow the accreditation of the qualification to continue, it may be subject to conditions which must be met within set timescales. Failure to meet the conditions within these timescales may result in the application of regulatory sanctions.

For details of the full range of regulatory sanctions which may be applied to awarding bodies in cases where regulatory compliance has not been maintained, please refer to our [Regulatory Sanctions Policy](#).

4 Appeals

All awarding bodies will have the right to appeal decisions made by the ACG. Grounds for appeal will vary depending on a case by case basis, therefore, all appeals made will be considered in their own right.

Full details of the [process for Appeals and Complaints](#) can be found on the SQA Accreditation website.

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Policy Author	Senior Accreditation Manager
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