

Annual Statistics Report

Report on accredited qualifications

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

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Contents

Executive summary	1
1 Introduction	2
2 Annual statistics	3
2.1 Currently accredited qualifications	3
2.2 Top 10 registrations and certifications	4
2.3 Analysis by qualification type	5
2.3.1 Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ)	6
2.3.2 Regulatory and Licensing (R&L) qualifications	6
2.3.3 All other accredited qualifications ('Other')	6
2.4 Analysis by SCQF level	7
2.5 Analysis by awarding body	8
2.6 Analysis by qualification category	10
2.6.1 Registrations by qualification category	10
2.6.2 Certifications by qualification category	11
2.7 Analysis by qualifications developer	12
2.8 Workplace Core Skills	15
Appendix 1: Glossary of terms	18
Appendix 2: Awarding bodies	19

Executive summary

This report provides an overview of qualification activity for SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies for 2021-22 financial year (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022). The data used to form this report is obtained directly from awarding bodies as part of their quarterly submission requirements. Therefore, the awarding bodies are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data supplied.

Previously, reports of this nature were generated on a quarterly basis, and there was no financial year report. This has been adapted and the following reports will be generated:

- 1. Quarterly Highlights Reports** — a summary of key figures from each quarter, produced at the end of each quarter and published on the SQA Accreditation website the following month.
- 2. Annual Statistics Reports** — a more detailed overview of key facts and figures, produced at the end of each financial year and published on the website in June.

You can view our published reports in the [Research and Statistics](#) section of our website.

122,468 registrations in 2021–22

95,104 certifications in 2021–22

1,087 different qualifications*

- ◆ 705 SVQs
- ◆ 32 R&L Qualifications
- ◆ 350 'Other' qualifications

*includes qualifications that have passed their lapse date

Comparison to 2020-21

Overall there is a 76% increase in registrations and a 44% increase in certifications, compared to 2020-21.

Qualification Types:

- SVQs; there was a 36.6% increase in registrations and 12.5% increase in certifications.
- R&L; there was a 97% increase in registrations and 103.6% increase in certifications.
- 'Other': there was a 104.3% increase in registrations and 112.5% increase in certifications.

1 Introduction

SQA Accreditation is the national accrediting body for Scotland with a statutory remit under Scottish legislation to accredit and quality assure qualifications in Scotland. Although part of the Scottish Qualifications Authority, SQA Accreditation is distinct and autonomous to SQA's awarding function.

SQA Accreditation sets and specifies the requirements for accrediting qualifications to safeguard and support the needs of learners, parents, funding bodies, employers, providers and Scottish Government. We do this by promoting and maintaining public confidence in accredited qualifications and approved awarding bodies.

The information shown has been produced from information provided by approved awarding bodies. This data covers SQA accredited qualifications during the financial year 2021–22 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022) and focuses on those candidates who were:

- ◆ registered for an SQA accredited qualification
- ◆ certificated for an SQA accredited qualification

At the point of accreditation, all qualifications are allocated a qualification type and qualification category, which are used to classify qualifications in this report. This report provides information on the number of registrations and certifications according to awarding body, area of competence, qualification type and level. Analyses of uptake based on qualification developer and Workplace Core Skills are also included. Data may be subject to revision in subsequent reports if any discrepancies are identified. Further information regarding the method of data collection can be found in our [methodology](#) document.

For upcoming data submissions, the following deadline dates apply and must be adhered to by all awarding bodies to ensure consistency and accuracy of data in future reports:

Quarter	Submission deadline
Quarter 1 (1 April – 30 June 2022)	14 July 2022
Quarter 2 (1 July – 30 September 2022)	14 October 2022
Quarter 3 (1 October – 31 December 2022)	14 January 2023
Quarter 4 (1 January – 31 March 2023)	14 April 2023

2 Annual statistics

This report covers all qualification types that SQA Accreditation accredit, categorised as follows:

- ◆ Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)
- ◆ Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (R&L)
- ◆ 'Other' accredited qualifications ('Other')
 - Including competence-based qualifications

SQA Accreditation has a statutory remit to accredit SVQs and Regulatory and Licensing qualifications as well as accrediting 'Other' qualifications on a voluntary basis. Where these qualifications form part of the mandatory section of Modern Apprenticeship (MA) frameworks, they must be accredited by SQA Accreditation.

The statistics in this report are based on data submitted to us by our approved awarding bodies over the course of 2021–22. Awarding bodies are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

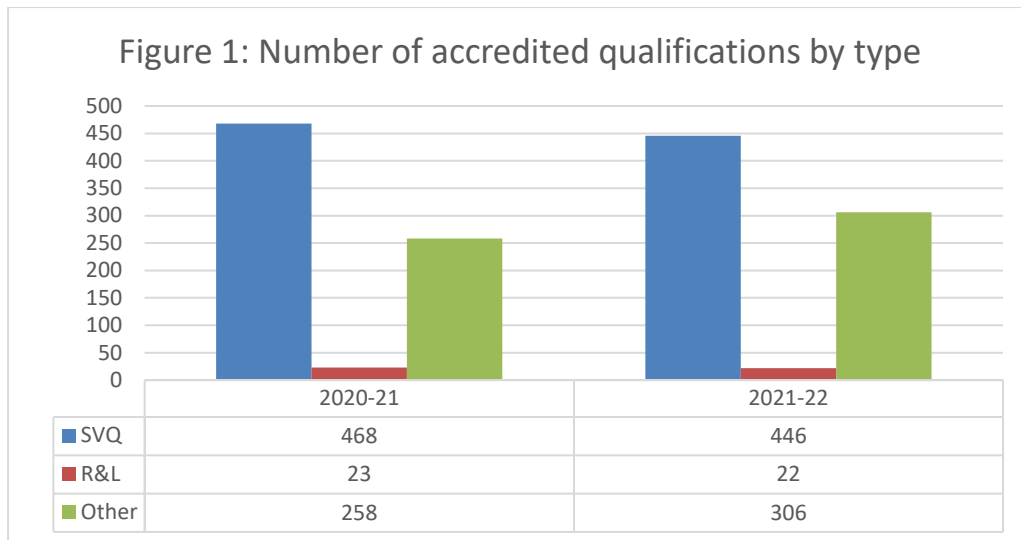
As of April 2022 qualifications will no longer be categorised in this way, there will only be two categories: SVQs and Non-SVQs. If you require further details, please contact Info.Accreditation@sqa.org.uk.

2.1 Currently accredited qualifications

At the end of Q4 of 2021–22 there were 774 live accredited qualifications¹:

- ◆ 446 SVQs (57.6%)
- ◆ 22 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (2.8%)
- ◆ 306 'Other' qualifications (39.5%)

¹ Note that this total does not include qualifications that are within their lapsing period.



The total number of accredited qualifications has increased by 25 qualifications since the 2020–21 financial year.

2.2 Top 10 registrations and certifications

During 2021–22, the qualification with the highest number of registrations was the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety. This qualification also had the highest registration numbers in 2020–21. Table 1 shows the top 10 qualifications in terms of registration numbers across 2021–22.

Qualification title	No. of registrations	Qualification type
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	8936	Other
Safecert SCQF Level 6 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work	6605	Other
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	5648	Other
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	3846	SVQ
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	3367	Other
SVQ in Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF Level 7	3232	SVQ
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6	3207	Regulatory
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7	3104	SVQ
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6	2752	Regulatory
Highfield Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	2609	Other

Table 1: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of registrations

The qualification with the highest number of certifications (demonstrated in Table 2) was the Safecert SCQF Level 6 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work. Table 2 shows the top 10 qualifications — based on the number of certifications — for 2021–22.

Qualification title	No. of certifications	Qualification type
Safecert SCQF Level 6 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work	6605	Other
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	5721	Other
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	5626	Other
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	3318	Other
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	3121	SVQ
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6	2710	Regulatory
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6	2676	Regulatory
Highfield Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	2604	Other
Award in First Aid for Mental Health at SCQF Level 5	2585	Other
ITC Certificate in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	2429	Other

Table 2: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of certifications

2.3 Analysis by qualification type

SQA Accreditation has collected qualification data from approved awarding bodies for numerous years and as a result is able to identify trends and present several years of data. The data that is gathered informs analysis across a variety of sectors and all types of accredited qualifications without limiting statistics to SVQs. This should give a complete picture of the landscape for accredited qualifications.

2.3.1 Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ)

38,585 registrations and 26,433 certifications	Offered by 17 awarding bodies
Representing 31.5% of all registrations	705 different SVQs
Representing 27.8% of all certifications	SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6 was the most popular: 3,846 registrations

2.3.2 Regulatory and Licensing (R&L) qualifications

13,595 registrations and 12,552 certifications	Offered by 6 awarding bodies
Representing 11.1% of all registrations	32 different qualifications
Representing 13.2% of all certifications	Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 was the most popular: 3,207 registrations

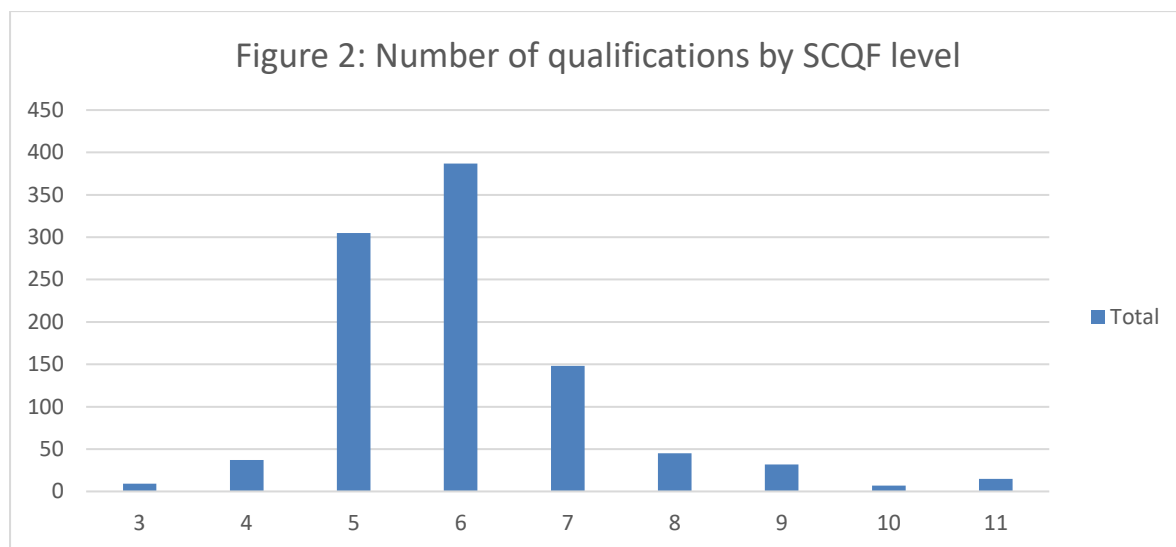
2.3.3 All other accredited qualifications ('Other')

70,288 registrations and 56,119 certifications	Offered by 29 awarding bodies
Representing 57.4% of all registrations	350 different qualifications
Representing 59% of all certifications	NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety was the most popular:

2.4 Analysis by SCQF level

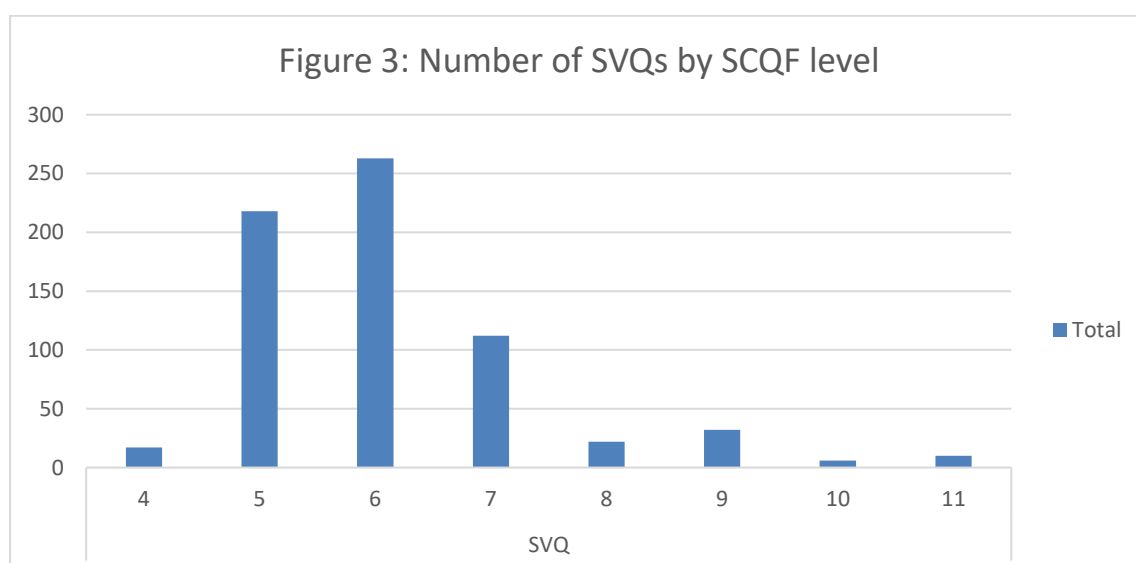
The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is the national qualifications framework for Scotland. The framework uses two measures — the level of a qualification and the number of credit points awarded — to allow comparison of the various qualifications. The level of the qualification indicates the level of difficulty and the number of credit points is indicative of the length of time it takes to complete a particular qualification.

The framework has 12 levels — ranging from National Qualifications through to Doctoral Degrees and Professional Apprenticeships. SQA Accreditation’s qualification provision covers SCQF level 3 to level 11, with the largest proportion of credit rated qualifications sitting at SCQF levels 5–6. This is demonstrated in Figure 2.



*Not all 1,087 qualifications have been credit rated.

Looking at SVQs, the majority of these qualifications also sit at SCQF levels 5 and 6 — which is expected as these would mainly have been at SVQ Levels 2 and 3 using the original titling convention of SVQ Level 2 and 3.



Many more SVQs are available at levels 5 and 6, as shown in Figure 3.

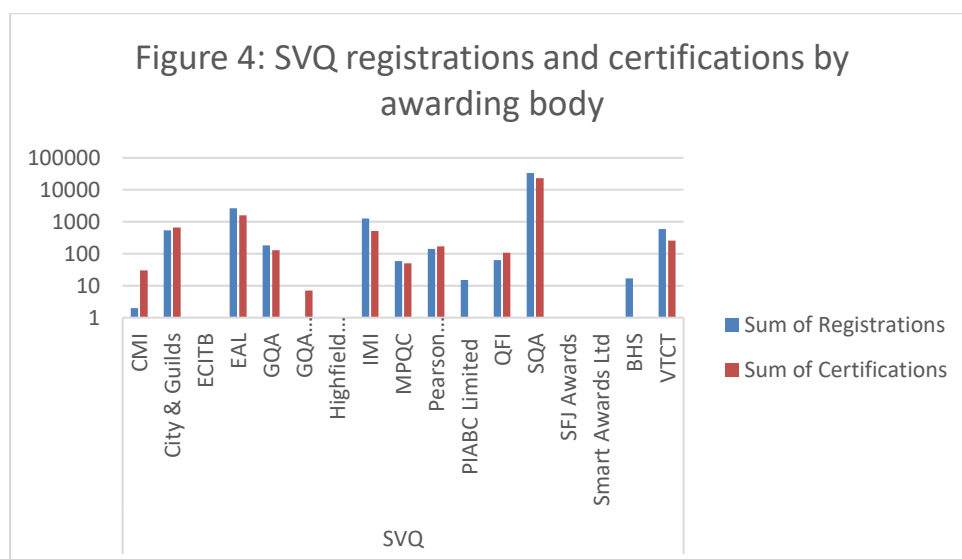
The higher numbers of qualifications at these levels are due to SVQs at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 forming part of a considerable number of Modern Apprenticeship (MA) frameworks.

- ◆ 84.4% of SCQF level 5 SVQs are present in MA frameworks
- ◆ 75.7% of SCQF level 6 SVQs
- ◆ and 74.1% of SCQF level 7 SVQs

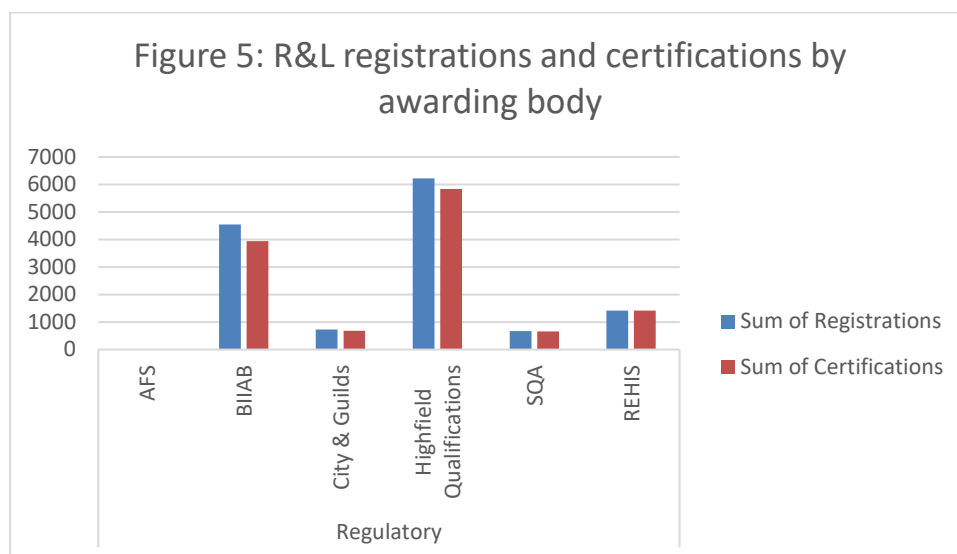
2.5 Analysis by awarding body

Awarding bodies tend to focus on specific qualification types, with exceptions such as SQA, City & Guilds, and Pearson offering accredited qualifications across all types. Please note that scales in the graphs below have been adjusted to make them easier to interpret.

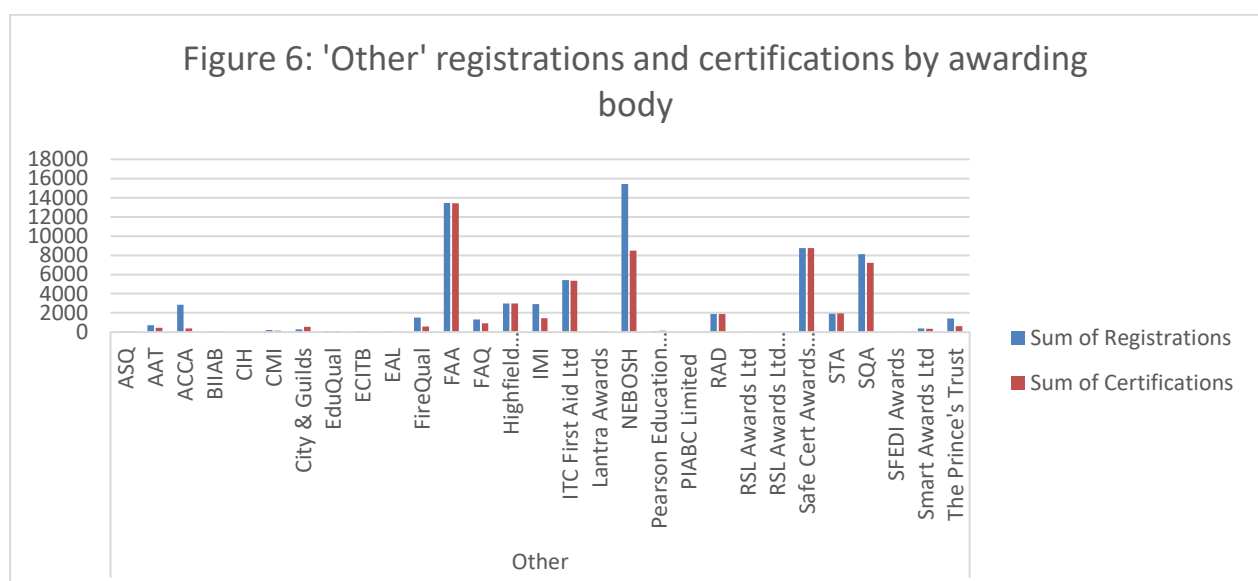
During 2021–22 the awarding body with the highest number of SVQ registrations overall was SQA (Figure 4), with 33,096 registrations (85.8% of all SVQ registrations). SQA awarding body also reported the highest number of SVQ certifications overall, with 22,930 certifications (86.7% of all SVQ certifications).



For R&L qualifications (Figure 5), the top awarding body for registrations and certifications was Highfield Qualifications with 6,218 registrations (45.7% of all R&L registrations) and 5,843 certifications (46.6% of all R&L certifications).



NEBOSH was the awarding body with the most registrations and certifications for 'Other' qualifications (Figure 6) with 15,430 registrations (22% of all 'Other' registrations). First Aid Awards (FAA) had the highest number of certifications and 13,405 certifications (23.9% of all 'Other' certifications).



The following awarding body indicated that they had no registrations or certifications in 2021–22 for any of their accredited qualifications: SFJ Awards.

Qualifications and awarding bodies with zero uptake are monitored regularly, and where there is no activity for a two-year period, the Accreditation and/or Regulation manager will discuss the reasons for this with the awarding body (as described in SQA Accreditation's [Zero Uptake](#) policy).

2.6 Analysis by qualification category

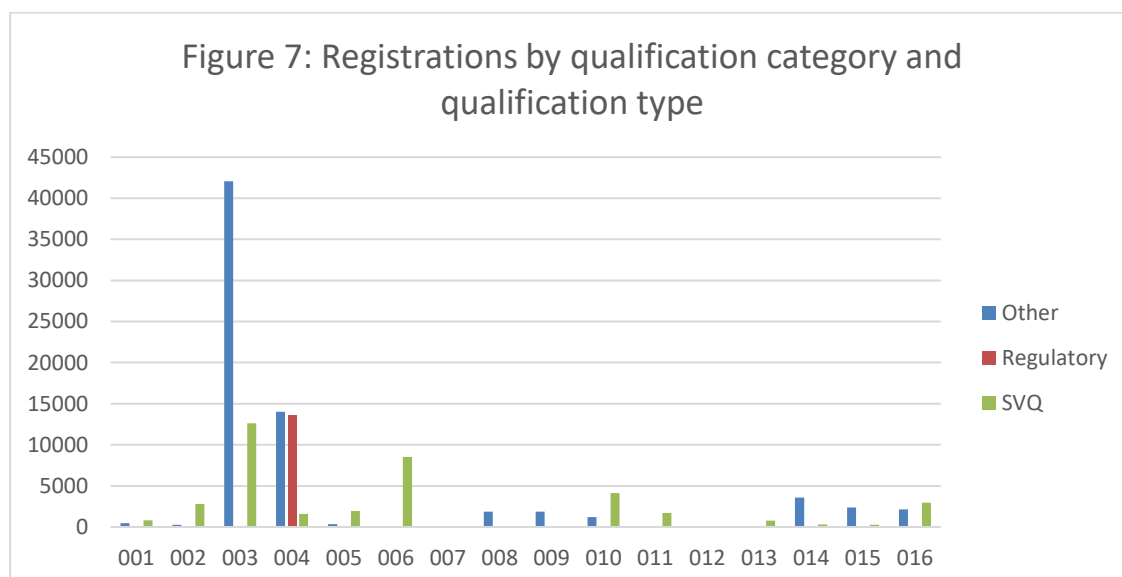
At the point of accreditation, each qualification is assigned to one of the following 16 qualification categories:

- 001. Land-based and Aquaculture
- 002. Business administration
- 003. Health care, Social Care and Childcare
- 004. Protective Services
- 005. Catering, Hospitality and Tourism
- 006. Construction
- 007. Creative and Design
- 008. IT and Digital
- 009. Education and Training
- 010. Engineering and Manufacturing
- 011. Hair and Beauty
- 012. Science and Mathematics
- 013. Retail
- 014. Legal and Financial
- 015. Sports and Active Leisure
- 016. Transport and Logistics

These classifications are combined with registration and certification data submitted by awarding bodies to produce the statistics below. Please note the scale in the graphs below has been altered so they can be more easily interpreted.

2.6.1 Registrations by qualification category

Figure 7 provides an overview of registrations for qualification category, further broken down by qualification type.



The qualification category with the highest number of SVQ registrations was 003 Health Care, Social Care and Childcare:

- ◆ 12,631 registrations, representing 32.7% of SVQ registrations during 2021–22

The qualification category with the highest number of Regulatory and Licensing registrations was 004 Protective Services:

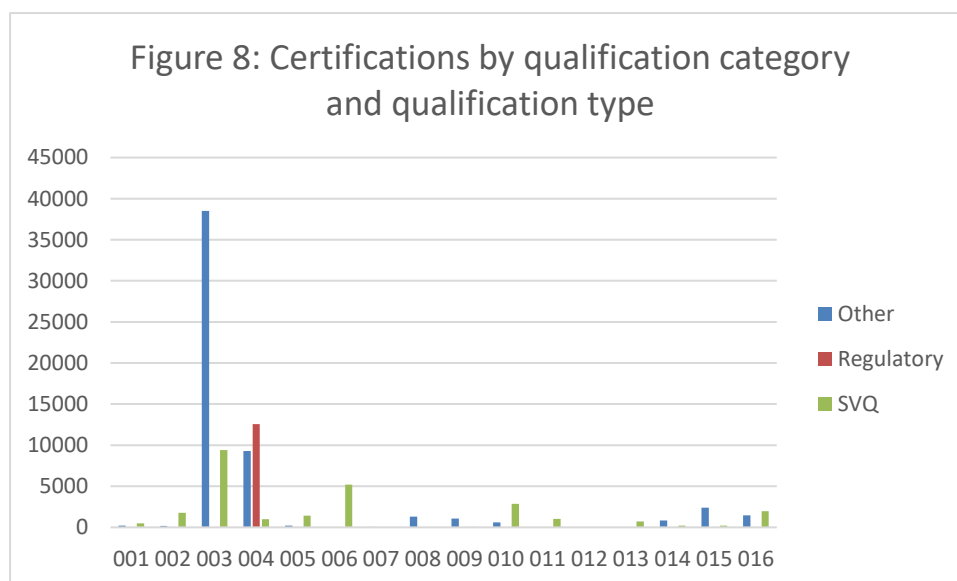
- ◆ 13,595 registrations, representing 100% of R&L registrations during 2021–22

The qualification category with the highest number of ‘Other’ registrations was 003 Health Care, Social Care and Childcare:

- ◆ 42,080 registrations, representing 60% of ‘Other’ registrations during 2021–22

2.6.2 Certifications by qualification category

Figure 8 shows the number of certifications by qualification category for each qualification type.



The qualification category that had the highest number of SVQ certifications was 003 Health, Social Care and Childcare:

- ◆ 9,421 certifications, representing 35.6% of SVQ certifications in 2021–22

The qualification category with the highest number of R&L certifications was 004 Protective Services:

- ◆ 12,551 certifications, representing 99.9% of R&L certifications in 2021–22

The qualification category that had the highest number of certifications for ‘Other’ qualifications was also 003 Health, Social Care and Childcare:

- ◆ 38,501 certifications, representing 68.6% of ‘Other’ certifications in 2021–22

2.7 Analysis by qualifications developer

A breakdown of registrations and certifications by qualification developer is presented in Figures 9,10 and 11.

Figure 9 demonstrates that SVQs are favoured across a wide range of developers, compared to Regulatory and Licensing and ‘Other’ qualifications. SVQs span a variety of sectors, including health and social care, transport, construction and business services. Skills for Care and Development accounts for 30.6% of all SVQ registrations and 33.4% of all certifications.

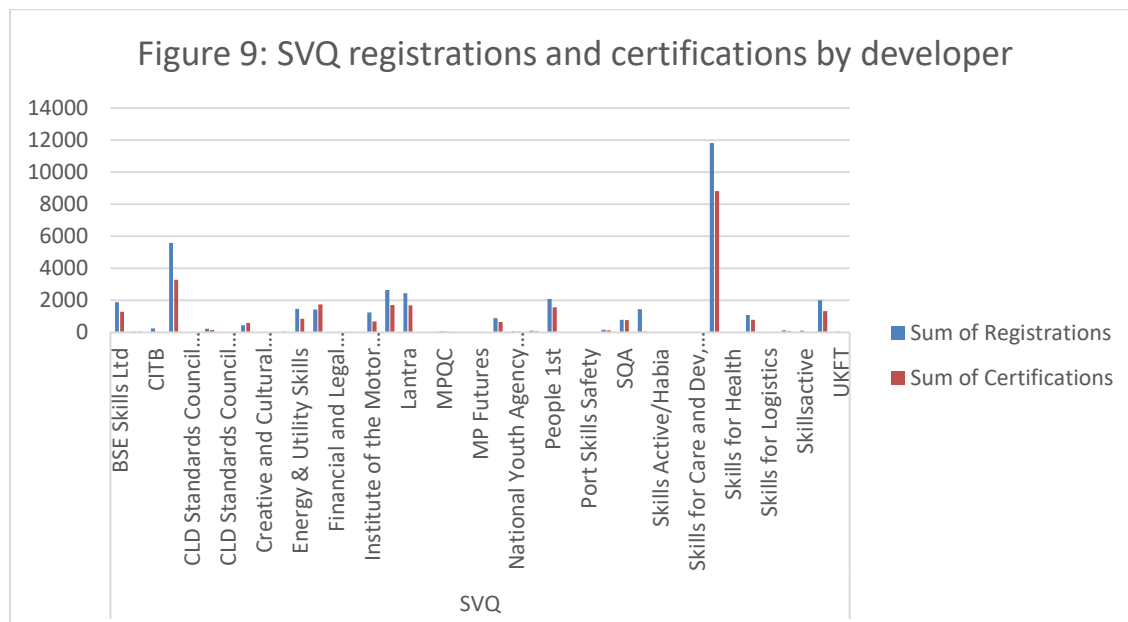
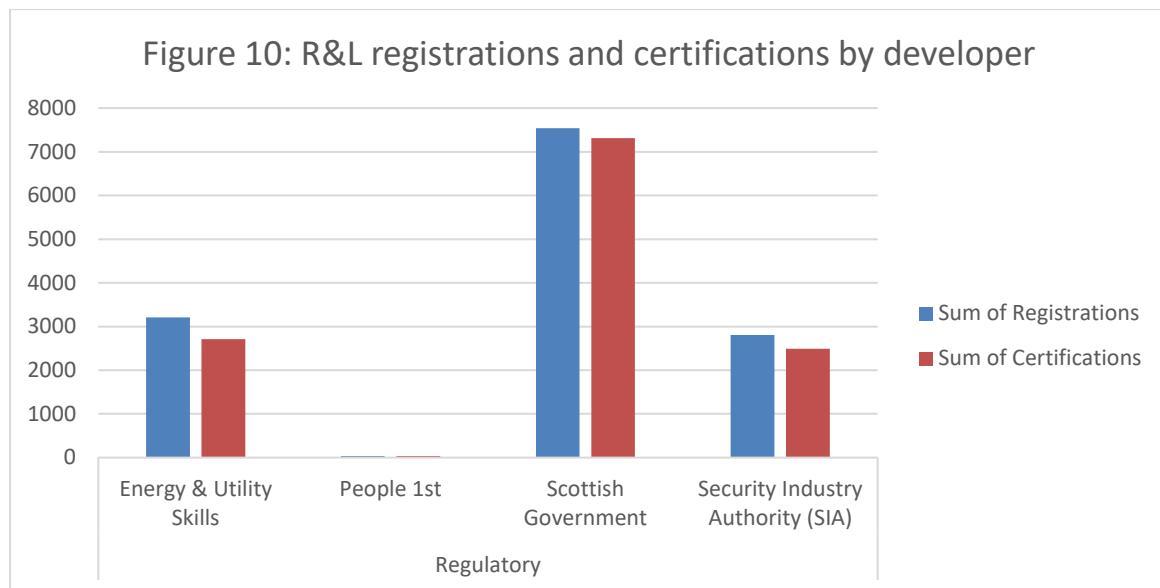


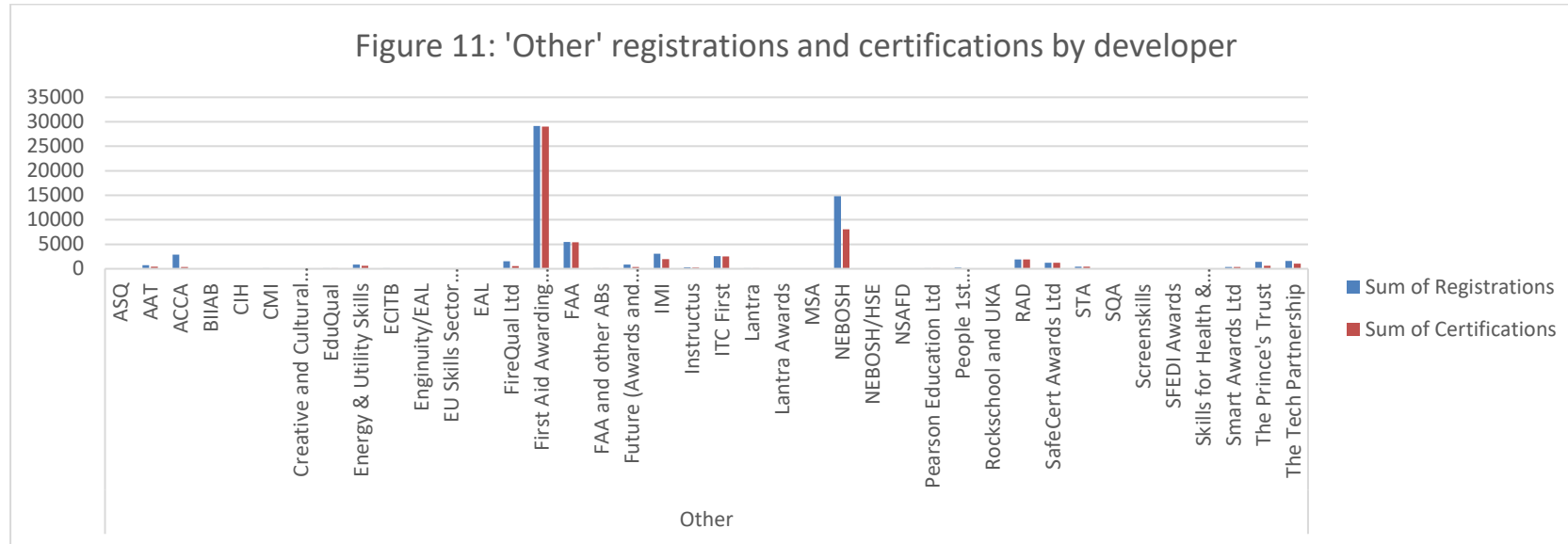
Figure 10 demonstrates that a smaller number of developers create qualifications within the Regulatory and Licensing category.



The qualifications themselves are relevant to a smaller range of sectors in comparison to SVQs — all registrations for this qualification type are within the security sector.

- ◆ Scottish Government accounted for 55.5% of registrations and 58.3% of certifications.

Figure 11 shows that, while a wide range of qualification developers have created 'Other' qualifications across different industries, the majority of registrations can be attributed to a small number of developers, and hence a small number of sectors. The largest uptake figures are recorded in the first aid and occupational safety and health sectors.



- ◆ 41.5% of registrations and 51.7% of certifications are in qualifications developed by the First Aid Awarding Organisation Forum.
- ◆ 21.1% of registrations and 14.3% of certifications are in qualifications developed by NEBOSH.

2.8 Workplace Core Skills

Workplace Core Skills are the broad, transferable skills that help to develop the main capabilities people need to be full, active and responsible members of society. Workplace Core Skills were specifically developed to assess core skills in a work environment. They contribute to employability and are a component of Modern Apprenticeships in Scotland. Each Workplace Core Skill is available at SCQF levels 3 to 6.

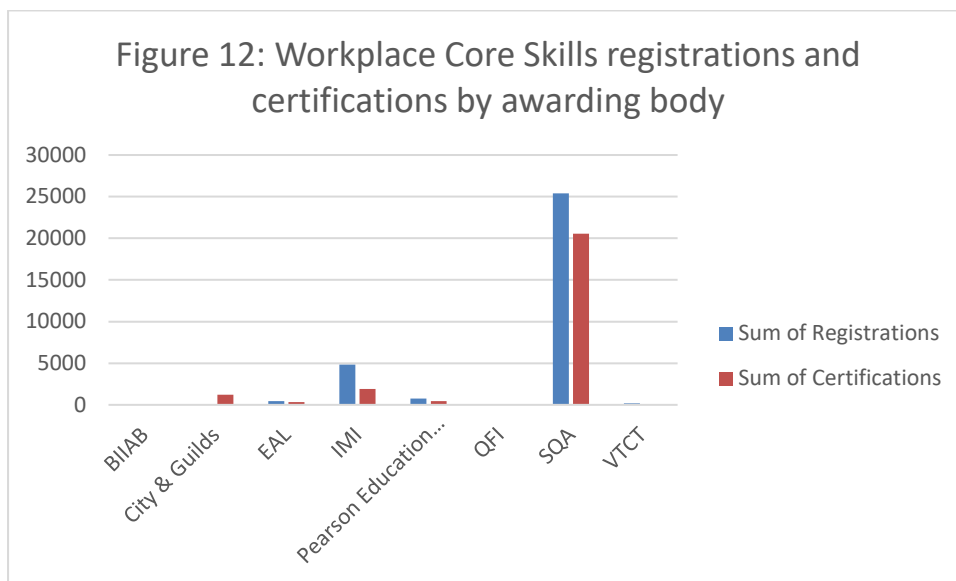
The five Workplace Core Skills are:

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Information and Communication Technology
- ◆ Numeracy
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Working with Others

At the end of 2021–22:

31,616 total registrations	Offered by 8 awarding bodies
24,551 total certifications	145 accredited Workplace Core Skills
SQA's Information and Communication Technology at SCQF Level 4 had the most registrations: 4,763 registrations	SQA's Information and Communication Technology at SCQF Level 5 had the most certifications: 3,685 certifications

The awarding body with the most registrations and certifications was SQA, with 88.2% of registrations and 84.5% of certifications. Figure 12 shows the number of registrations and certifications by awarding body.



Figures 13 and 14 show the number of registrations and certifications of each Workplace Core Skill at SCQF levels 3–6:

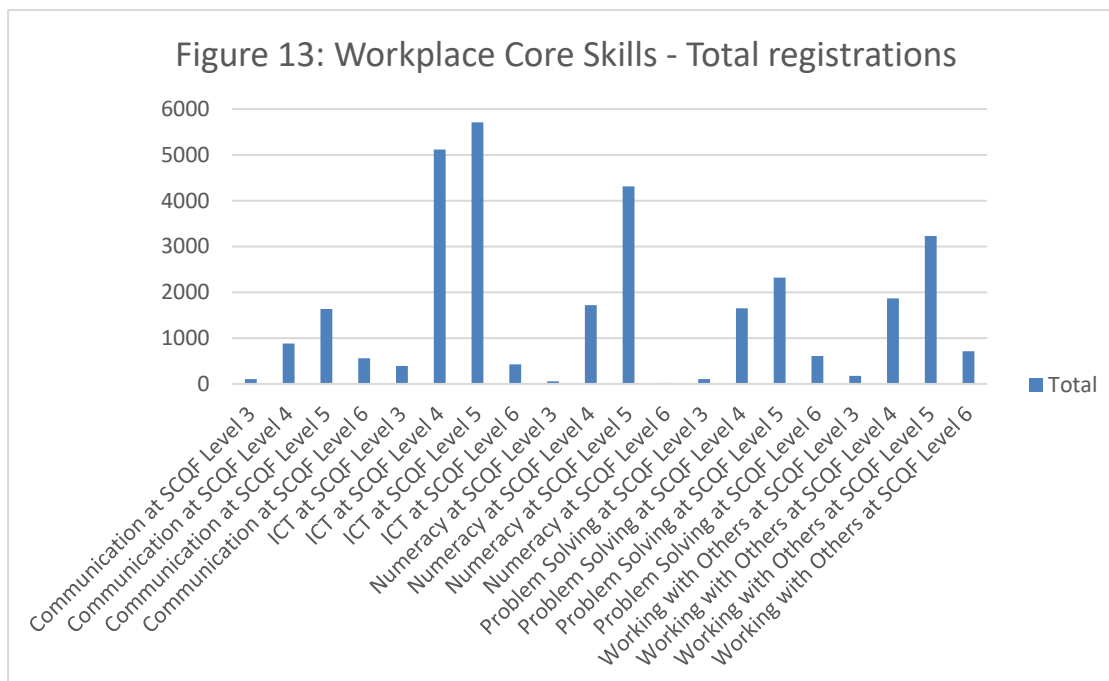
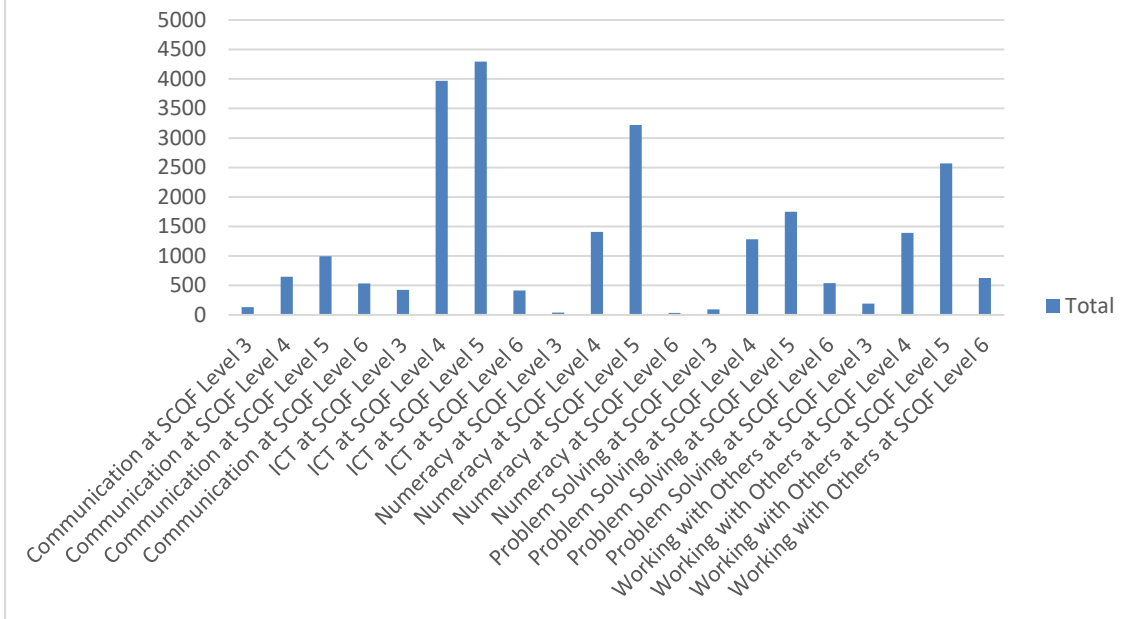


Figure 14: Workplace Core Skills - Total certifications



The number of registrations and certifications of qualifications and Workplace Core Skills is continually monitored via SQA Accreditation’s Quarterly Statistics Reports. These reports are published in the [Research and Statistics](#) section of our SQA Accreditation website.

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms

Term	Description
Area of competence	There are 11 occupational areas of competence. These range from Tending Animals, Plants and Land, to Engineering, to Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill. Areas of competence were replaced by Qualification Categories in April 2019.
Certifications	The process by which a centre requests a certificate for a candidate who has completed the full accredited qualification.
‘Other’ accredited qualification	All ‘Other’ accredited qualifications that are not SVQs or Regulatory and Licensing qualifications.
Qualification Categories	There are 16 qualification categories, which as of April 2019 replaced the Areas of Competence . All qualifications are organised by qualification categories. Examples of categories are Health, Social Care and Childcare, Engineering and Manufacturing and Protective Services.
Registrations	The process by which a centre informs an awarding body that a candidate has commenced working towards an accredited qualification.
Regulatory and Licensing qualification	Qualifications which are defined or required by industry regulators, such as the Security Industry Authority, and often underpin licence to practise schemes.
Scottish Vocational Qualification	Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are qualifications which combine skills, knowledge and ability within a specific occupational area and are delivered in a workplace setting. The standards for SVQs are designed by the appropriate sector skills council (SSC).

Appendix 2: Awarding bodies

SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies.

Abbreviation	Awarding body
ASQ	Associated Sports Qualifications
AFS	Alcohol Focus Scotland
AAT	Association of Accounting Technicians
ACCA	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
BIIAB	British Institute of Innkeepers Awarding Body
CIH	Chartered Institute of Housing
CMI	Chartered Management Institute
Not Applicable	City & Guilds of London Institute
Not Applicable	EduQual
ECITB	Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
ESB	English Speaking Board
EQL	Equestrian Qualifications GB Limited
EAL	Excellence, Achievement and Learning Limited
FAA	First Aid Awards Limited
Not Applicable	FireQual
FAQ	Future (Awards & Qualifications) Limited
GQA	GQA Qualifications Limited
Not Applicable	Highfield Qualifications
IMI	IMI Awards Limited
IQ	Industry Qualifications Limited
ITC	ITC First
Not Applicable	Lantra Awards Limited
MPQC	Mineral Products Qualifications Council
NEBOSH	National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health
Not Applicable	PAA/VQ-SET
Not Applicable	PIABC
Not Applicable	Pearson Education Limited
Not Applicable	The Prince's Trust
QFI	Qualifications for Industry
Not Applicable	Rockschool Limited
RAD	Royal Academy of Dance
Not Applicable	RSL
Not Applicable	SafeCert Awards Limited
STA	Safety Training Awards Limited

Abbreviation	Awarding body
Not Applicable	SFEDI Awards
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Not applicable	Smart Awards
VTCT	Vocational Training Charitable Trust
WCSM	Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers