

# **Annual Statistics Report**

## **Report on accredited qualifications**

1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

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SQA Accreditation

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*An Assurance of Quality*

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# Executive summary

This report provides an overview of qualification activity for SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies for the 2018–19 financial year (1 April 2018–31 March 2019). 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 produced each quarter, and there was no report for the financial year. This has now changed and the following reports will be produced:

- 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.

## Headline figures 2018–19

**127,660** registrations  
in 2018–19

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**104,150** certifications  
in 2018–19

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**1,438** different qualifications\*

- 1,015 SVQs
- 39 R&L qualifications
- 384 'Other' qualifications

\*includes qualifications that have passed their lapse date

# 1 Introduction

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

SQA Accreditation sets and specifies the requirements for accrediting qualifications to safeguard and support the interests of learners, parents, funding bodies, employers, providers and Scottish Government. We do this to promote and maintain 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 2018–19 (1 April 2018–31 March 2019) 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 an area of competence, which are used to classify qualifications in this report. This report provides information on the number of registrations and certifications according to qualification type and level, awarding body and area of competence. 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.

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 2019)	12 July 2019
Quarter 2 (1 July–30 September 2019)	14 October 2019
Quarter 3 (1 October–31 December 2019)	14 January 2020
Quarter 4 (1 January–31 March 2020)	14 April 2020

## 2 Annual statistics

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

- ♦ **Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)**
- ♦ **Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (R&L)** — qualifications that are required to perform regulated job roles, including security and personal license certificates
- ♦ **'Other' qualifications** — including exam-based, and competence-based qualifications that are not SVQs nor Regulatory, including Diplomas, Certificates and Awards in subjects such as Accounting and Facilities Management

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 2018–19. Awarding bodies are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

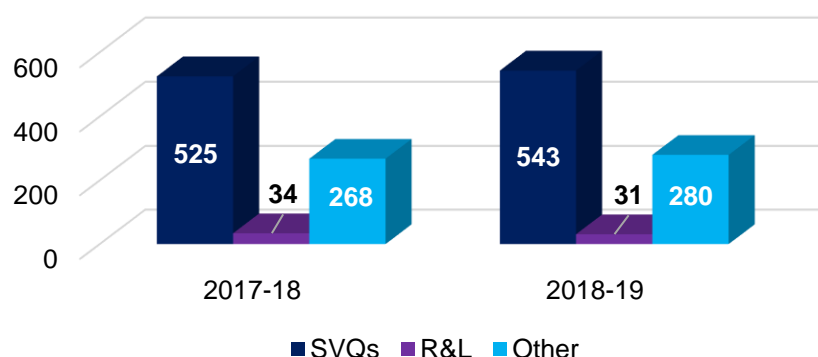
### 2.1 Currently accredited qualifications

At the end of 2018–19 there were 854 live accredited qualifications<sup>1</sup>:

- ♦ **543 SVQs** (63.6%)
- ♦ **31 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications** (3.6%)
- ♦ **280 'Other' qualifications** (32.8%)

The total number of accredited qualifications has increased by 27 qualifications since the 2017–18 financial year.

**Figure 1: Accredited qualifications by type**



<sup>1</sup> Note that this total does not include qualifications that are within their lapsing period.

## 2.2 Top ten registrations and certifications

During 2018–19, 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 2017–18. Table 1 shows the top ten qualifications in terms of registration numbers across 2018–19.

Qualification title	No. of registrations	Qualification type
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	9,340	Other
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SQA)	5,849	Other
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	4,600	Regulatory
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	4,579	SVQ
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	3,582	Regulatory
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (First Aid Awards Ltd)	3,244	Other
SVQ in Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF Level 7	3,035	SVQ
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7	2,834	SVQ
ITC Certificate in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	2,428	Other
Highfield Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private Security Industry (Scotland) at SCQF Level 6	2,342	Regulatory

**Table 1: Top 10 performing qualification in terms of registrations**

The qualification with the highest number of certifications (as shown in Table 2) was also the **NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety**.

Table 2 shows the top ten qualifications — based on the number of certifications — for 2018–19.

Qualification title	No. of certifications	Qualification type
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	5,915	Other
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SQA)	5,799	Other
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	4,399	Regulatory
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	3,681	SVQ
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	3,491	Regulatory
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (First Aid Awards Ltd)	3,232	Other
ITC Certificate in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6	2,420	Other
Award in First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SQA)	2,353	Other
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (Highfield)	2,295	Regulatory
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7	2,240	SVQ

**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 a number of years and as a result is able to identify trends across 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 (SVQs)

<b>44,811 registrations and 33,763 certifications</b>	<b>Offered by 17 Awarding Bodies</b>
<b>Representing 35% of all registrations</b>	<b>1,015 different SVQs</b>
<b>Representing 32% of all certifications</b>	<b>SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6 was the most popular:  4,579 registrations</b>

### 2.3.2 Regulatory and Licensing (R&L) qualifications

<b>21,488 registrations and 21,542 certifications</b>	<b>Offered by 10 Awarding Bodies</b>
<b>Representing 16.8% of all registrations</b>	<b>39 different qualifications</b>
<b>Representing 20.6% of all certifications</b>	<b>BIIAB's Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 was the most popular:  4,600 registrations</b>



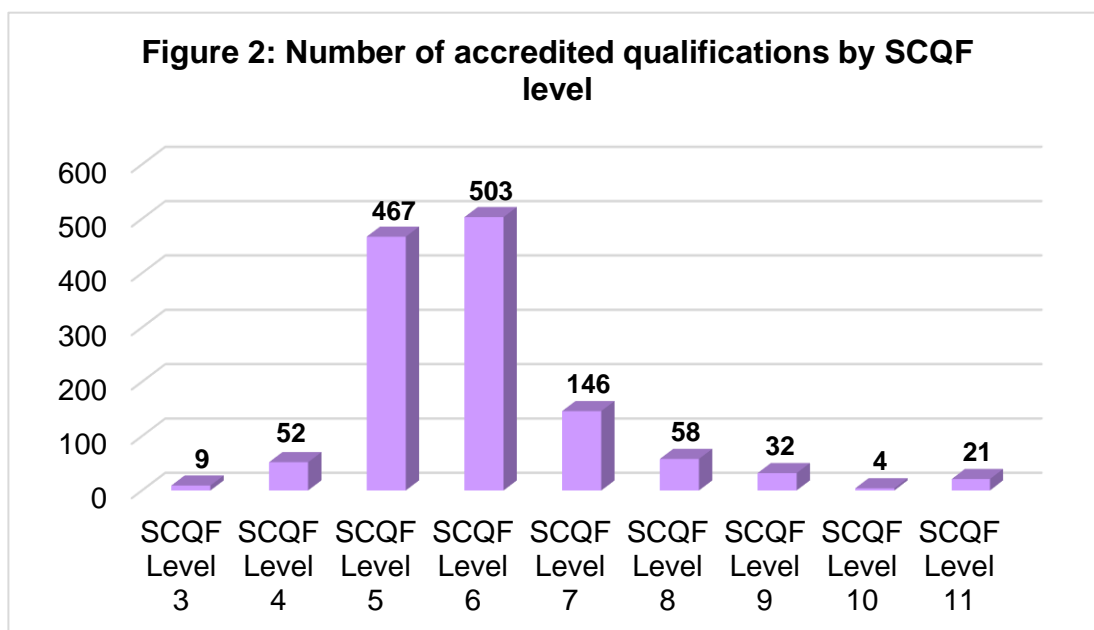
### 2.3.3 All other accredited qualifications ('Other')

<b>61,361 registrations and 48,845 certifications</b>	<b>Offered by 29 Awarding Bodies</b>
<b>Representing 48% of all registrations</b>	<b>384 different qualifications</b>
<b>Representing 47% of all certifications</b>	<b>NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety was the most popular:</b>  <b>9,340 registrations</b>

## 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 Scottish qualifications. The level of the qualification indicates the level of difficulty, and the number of credit points indicates the length of time it takes to complete a particular qualification.

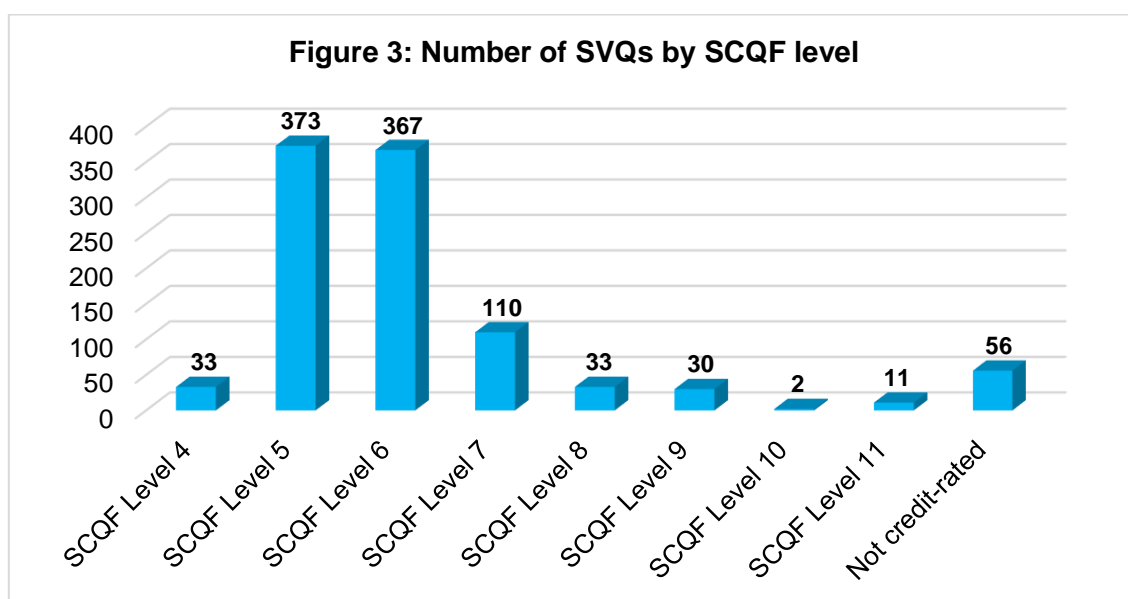
The framework has 12 levels and SQA Accreditation's qualification provision covers SCQF Level 3 to Level 11, with the largest proportion of credit rated qualifications sitting at SCQF Levels 5 and 6. This is demonstrated in the following figure:



The majority of SVQs sit at SCQF levels 5 and 6 (as shown in Figure 3 below). Previously these would have been at the SVQ levels originally titled Level 2 and Level 3.

The higher numbers of qualifications at these levels is due to many SVQs at SCQF levels 5, 6 and 7 forming part of a considerable number of Modern Apprenticeship (MA) frameworks. The following percentages of SVQs are present in MA frameworks at each level:

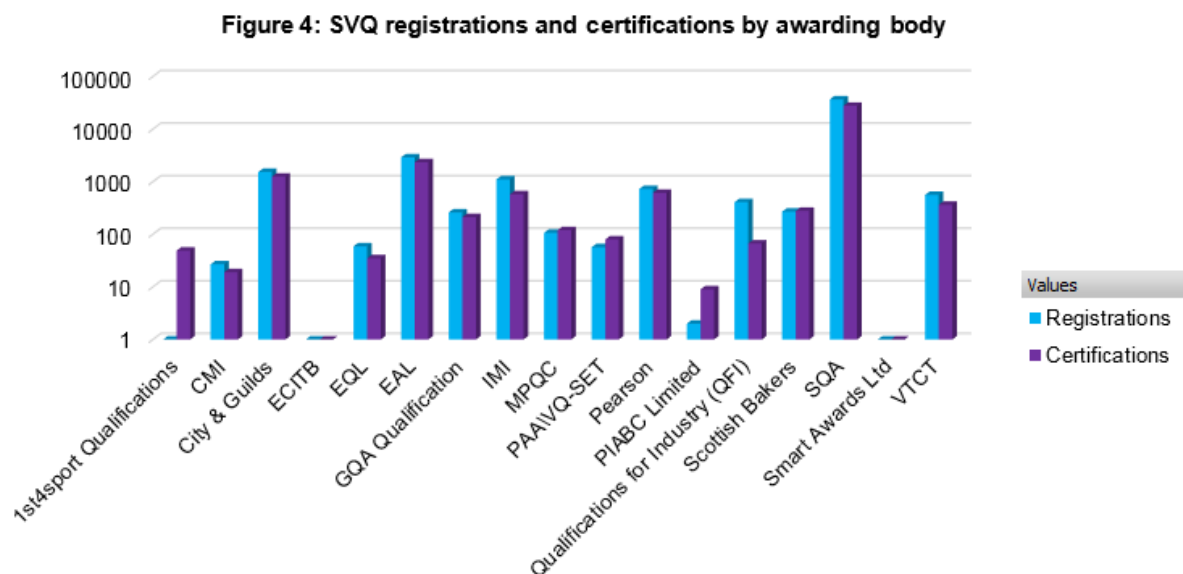
- ◆ 45% of SCQF Level 5 SVQs
- ◆ 43% of SCQF Level 6 SVQs
- ◆ 53% of SCQF Level 7 SVQs



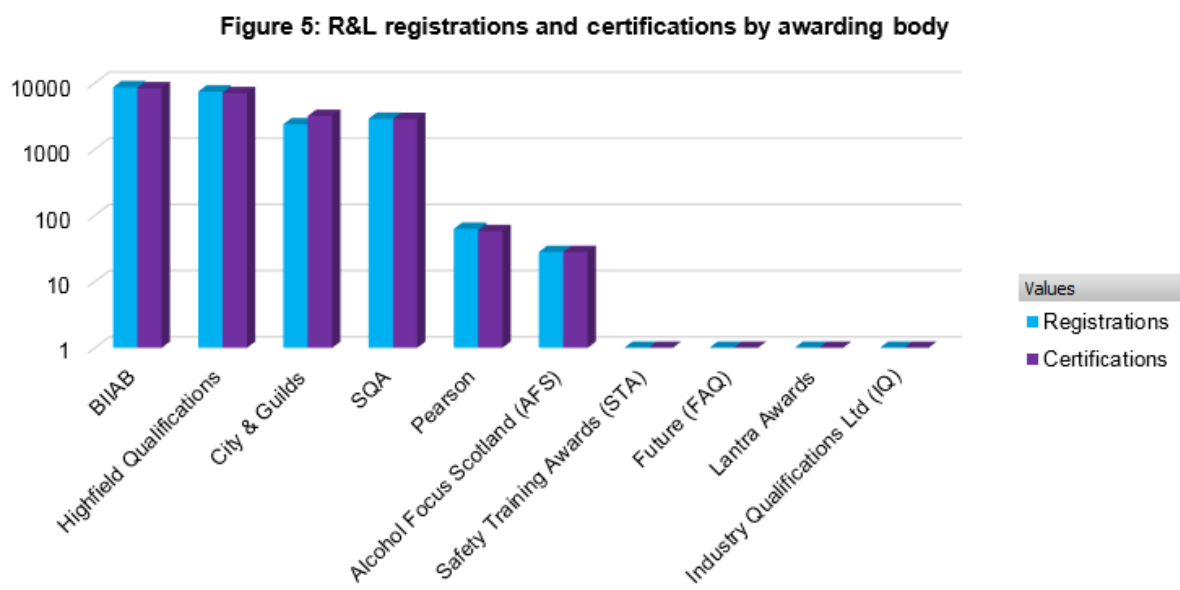
## 2.5 Analysis by awarding body

Awarding bodies tend to focus on specific qualification types, with only SQA, City & Guilds, and Pearson offering accredited qualifications across all types. (See Figures 4 to 6 below). (Please note that in these three charts the intervals on the left-hand axis are not equal, but increase by a factor of ten — this is to make it easier to fit the data into the space available.)

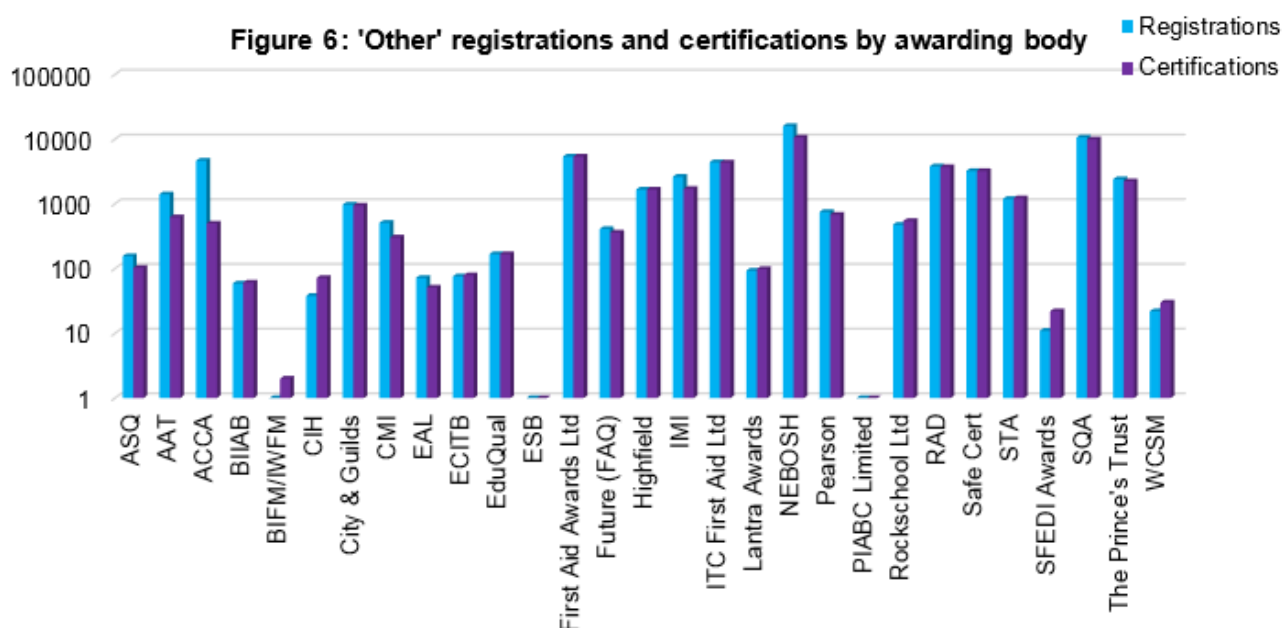
During 2018–19 the awarding body with the highest number of SVQ registrations overall was SQA, with 36,771 registrations (82% of all SVQ registrations). The SQA awarding body also reported the highest number of SVQ certifications overall, with 27,736 certifications (82% of all SVQ certifications).



For R&L qualifications (Figure 5), the top awarding body for registrations was BIIAB, with 8,669 registrations (40% of all R&L registrations). BIIAB also had the most certifications, with a total number of 8,369 certifications (39% of all R&L certifications).



NEBOSH was the awarding body with the most registrations and certifications for 'Other' qualifications with 16,015 registrations (26% of all 'Other' registrations) and 10,643 certifications (22% of all 'Other' certifications).



The following awarding bodies indicated that they had no registrations or certifications in 2018–19 for any of their accredited qualifications:

- ◆ Industry Qualifications Ltd (IQ)
- ◆ English Speaking Board (ESB)
- ◆ Smart Awards Ltd

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).

Three awarding bodies submitted requests to have their approved awarding body status removed in 2018–19:

- Scottish Bakers
- 1st4sport
- Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management (IWFM)
  - formerly known as the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM)

One new awarding body – Smart Awards Ltd. - was approved in 2018-19, offering an accredited SVQ in Customer Service at SCQF Level 6. This qualification was accredited in December 2018, therefor has had no reported uptake as yet.

## 2.6 Analysis by area of competence

At the point of accreditation, each qualification is assigned to one of the following 11 areas of competence:

- ◆ 001 Tending Animals, Plants and Land
- ◆ 002 Extracting and Providing Natural Resources
- ◆ 003 Constructing
- ◆ 004 Engineering
- ◆ 005 Manufacturing
- ◆ 006 Transporting
- ◆ 007 Providing Goods and Services
- ◆ 008 Providing Health, Care and Protective Services
- ◆ 009 Providing Business Services
- ◆ 010 Communicating and Entertaining
- ◆ 011 Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill

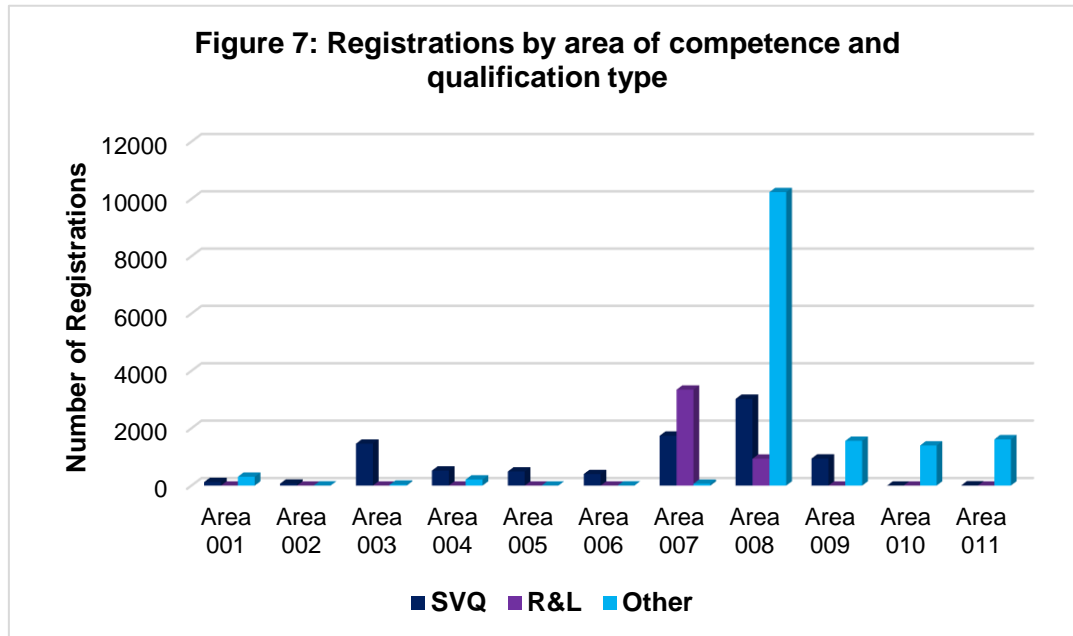
From 1 April 2019, SQA Accreditation is changing the way in which we categorise qualifications, in terms of industry type. Following a review of different schemes, taking into consideration fitness-for-purpose and relevance, a new 16-category system has been devised:

1. Land-based and Aquaculture
2. Business administration
3. Health care, Social Care and Childcare
4. Protective Services
5. Catering, Hospitality and Tourism
6. Construction
7. Creative and Design
8. IT and Digital
9. Education and Training
10. Engineering and Manufacturing
11. Hair and Beauty
12. Science and Mathematics
13. Retail
14. Legal and Financial
15. Sports and Active Leisure
16. Transport and Logistics

These classifications will be combined with registration and certification data submitted by awarding bodies for future statistical reports.

### 2.6.1 Registrations by areas of competence

Registrations across areas of competence have historically been concentrated in two of the 11 areas listed — 007 Providing Goods and Services, and 008 Providing Health, Care and Protective Services. Figure 7 provides an overview of registrations for each area of competence, further broken down by qualification type.



The area of competence with the highest number of SVQ registrations was Area 008: Providing Health, Care and Protective Services:

- ◆ 13,295 registrations, representing 29.7 % of SVQ registrations during 2018–19

The area of competence with the highest number of Regulatory and Licensing registrations was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services:

- ◆ 18,290 registrations, representing 85% of R&L qualifications during 2018–19

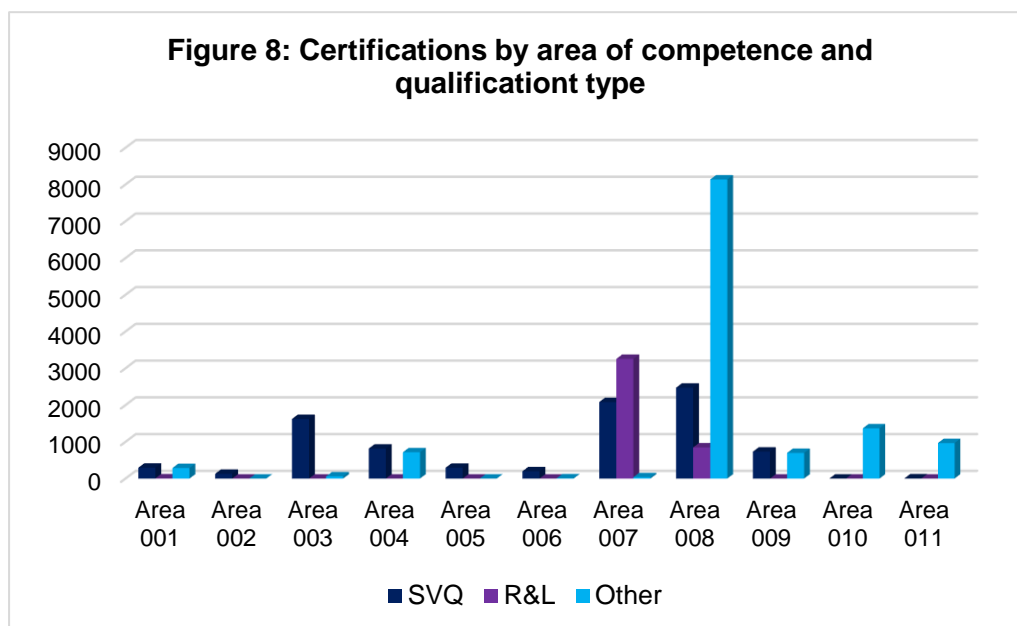
The area of competence with the highest number of 'Other' registrations was also Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective services:

- ◆ 39,563 registrations, representing 64.5% of 'Other' qualifications during 2018–19

### 2.6.2 Certifications by area of competence

Similarly to the trend observed in registrations, the largest numbers of certifications fell into competence areas 007 and 008.

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



The area of competence that experienced the highest number of SVQ certifications was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services:

- ◆ 9,803 certifications, representing 29% of SVQ certifications in 2018–19

The area of competence with the highest number of R&L certifications was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services:

- ◆ 18,669 certifications, representing 86.7% of R&L certifications in 2018–19

The area of competence that experienced the highest number of certifications for 'Other' qualifications was also Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services:

- ◆ 34,262 certifications, representing 70% of 'Other' certifications in 2018–19

## 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 27% of all SVQ registrations and 26% of all certifications.

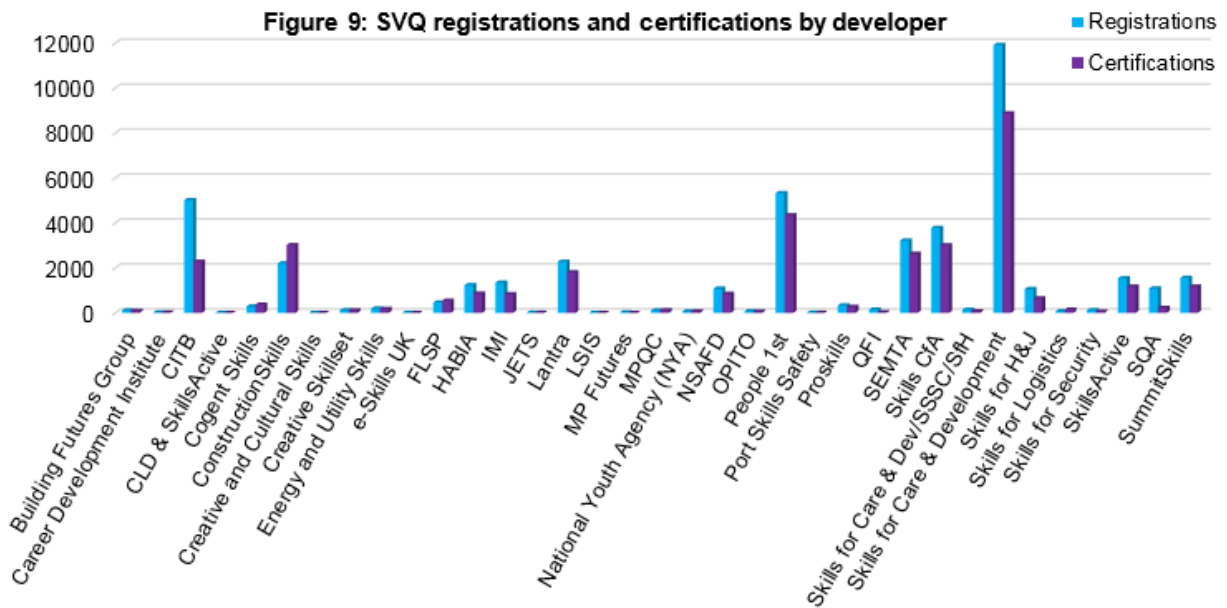
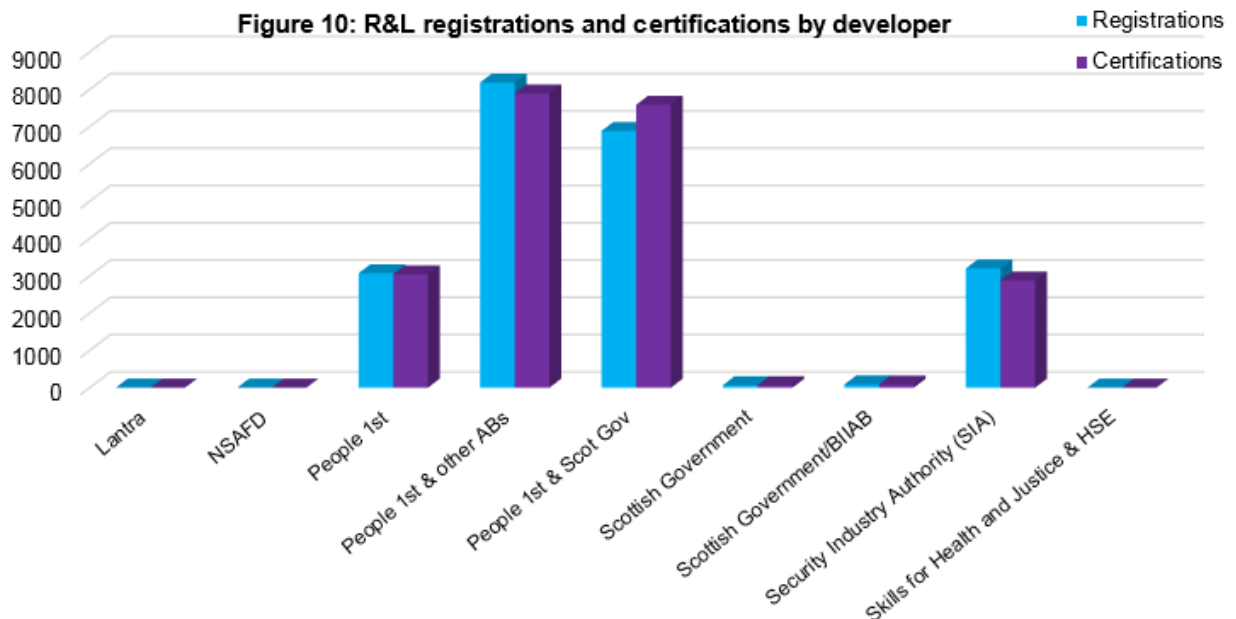


Figure 10 demonstrates that a smaller number of developers create qualifications within the Regulatory and Licensing category. It can be seen from Figure 10 that organisations in these sectors work in partnership to develop these qualifications.

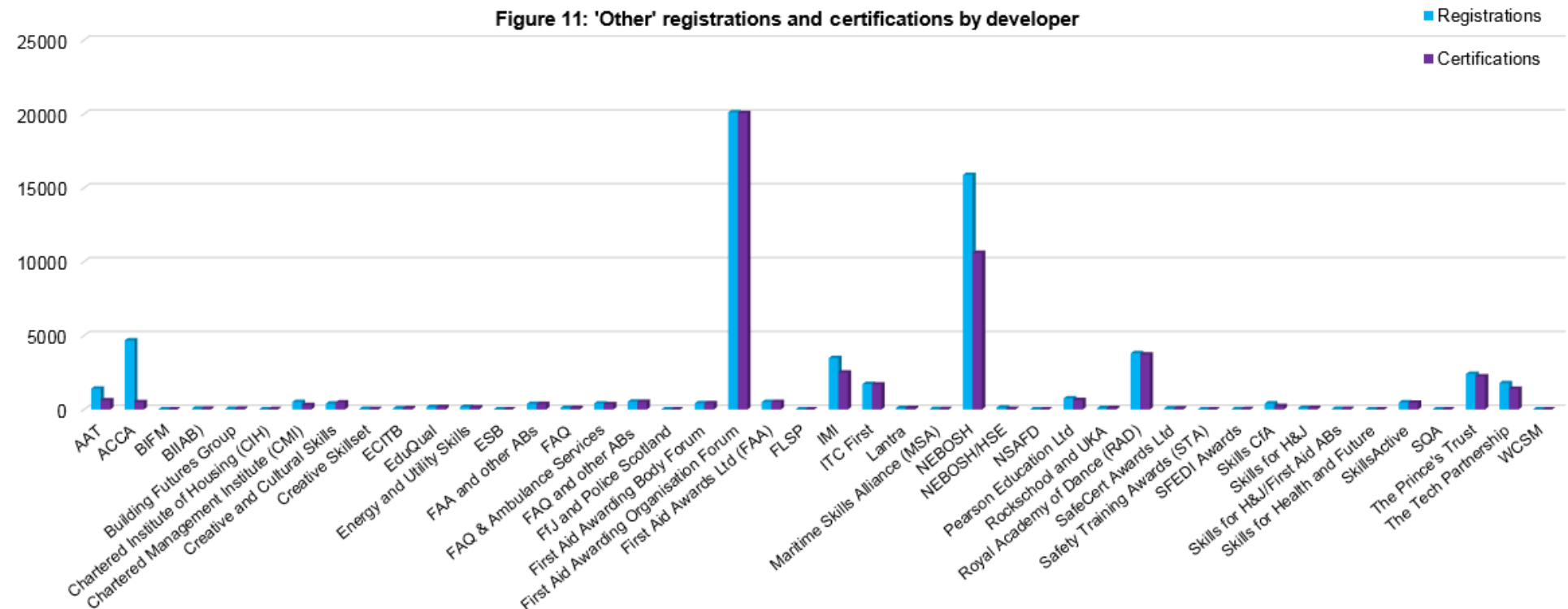


The qualifications themselves are relevant to a smaller range of sectors in comparison to SVQs — the majority of registrations for this qualification type are in the hospitality and security sectors.

- ◆ People 1st and other awarding bodies account for 38% of registrations and 37% of certifications
- ◆ People 1st and Scottish Government account for 32% of registrations and 35% 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.



- ◆ 33% of registrations and 41% of certifications are in qualifications developed by the First Aid Awarding Organisation Forum
- ◆ 26% of registrations and 22% 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.

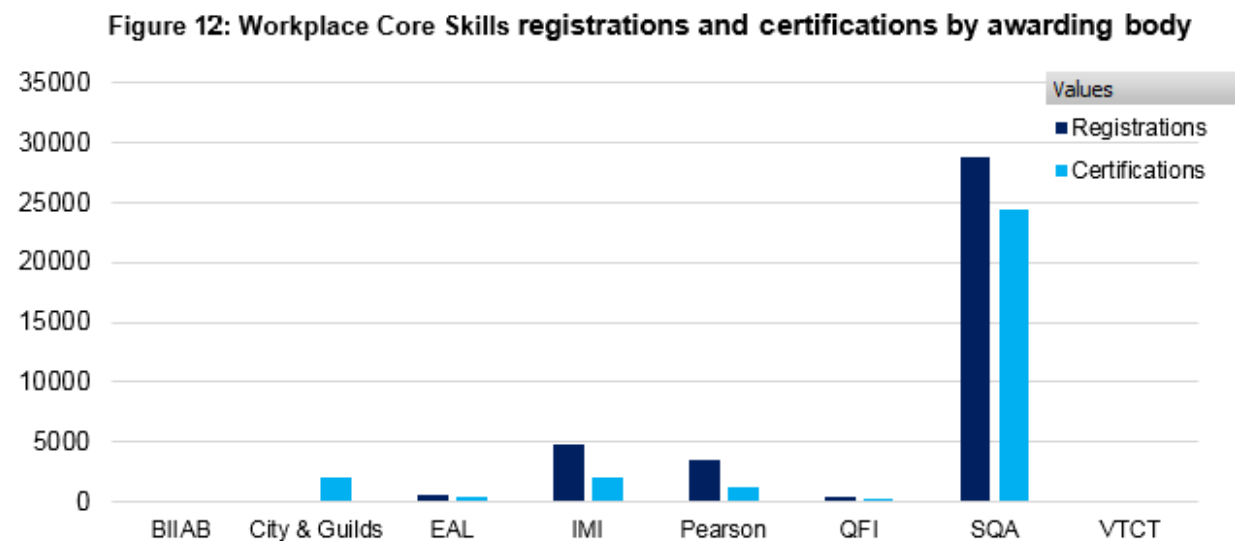
The five Workplace Core Skills are:

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

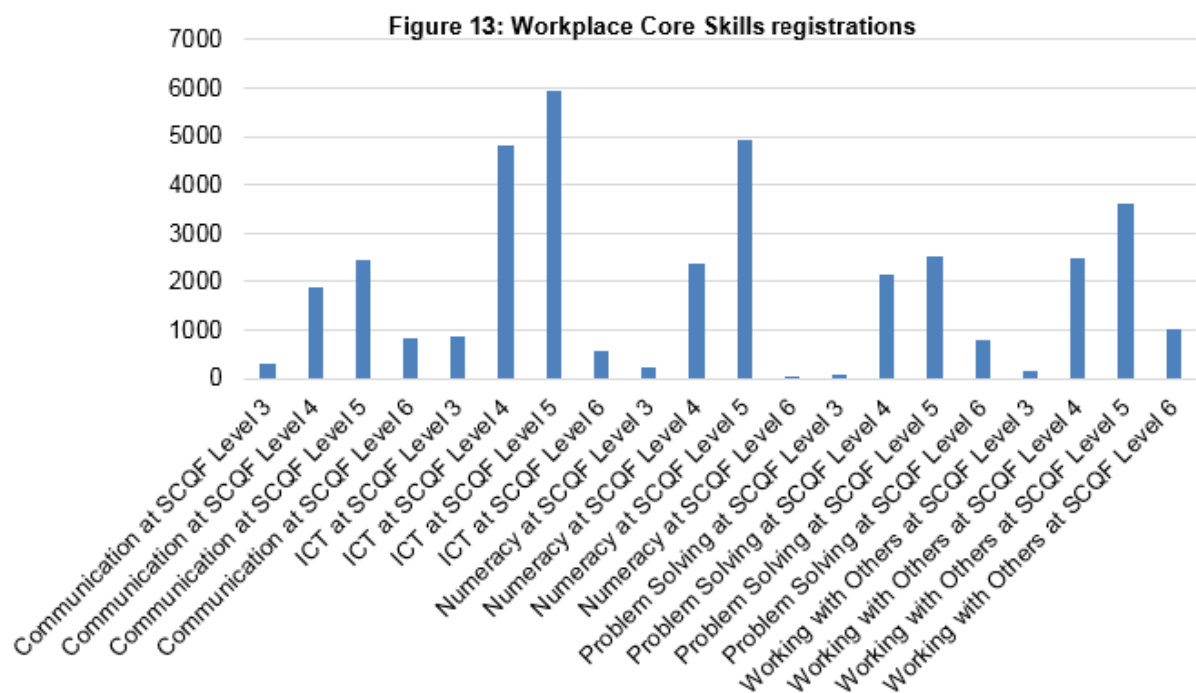
At the end of 2018–19:

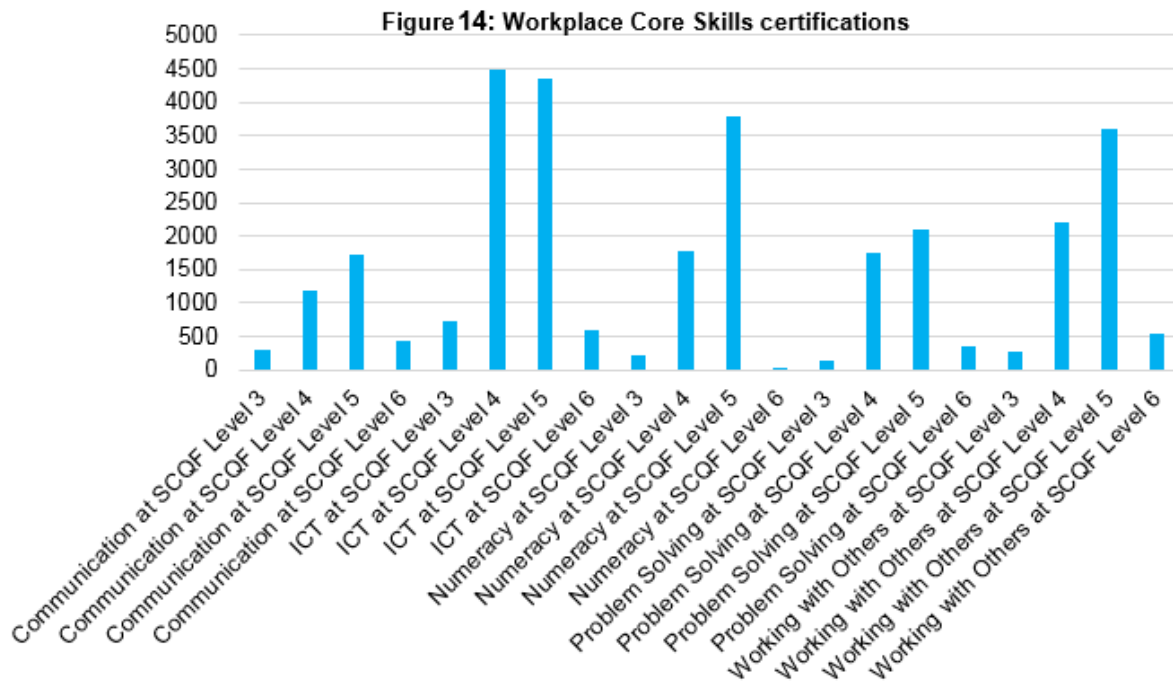
<b>38,093 total registrations</b>	<b>Offered by 8 Awarding Bodies</b>
<b>30,536 total certifications</b>	<b>145 accredited Workplace Core Skills</b>
<b>SQA's Information and Communication Technology at SCQF level 5 had the most registrations:</b>  <b>4,574 registrations</b>	<b>SQA's Information and Communication Technology at SCQF Level 5 had the most certifications:</b>  <b>3,595 registrations</b>

The awarding body with the most registrations and certifications was SQA, with 74% of registrations and 80% of certifications. Figure 12 shows the number of registrations and certifications by awarding body:



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





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
<b>Certification</b>	The process by which a centre requests a certificate for a candidate who has completed the full accredited qualification.
<b>'Other' accredited qualifications</b>	All 'Other' accredited qualifications that are not SVQs or Regulatory and Licensing qualifications.
<b>Registration</b>	The process by which a centre informs an awarding body that a candidate has commenced working towards an accredited qualification.
<b>Regulatory and Licensing qualifications</b>	Qualifications which are defined or required by industry regulators, such as the Security Industry Authority, and often underpin licence to practise schemes.
<b>Scottish Vocational Qualifications</b>	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
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 Limited
Not Applicable	Pearson Education Limited
Not Applicable	The Prince's Trust
QFI	Qualifications for Industry
Not Applicable	RSL
RAD	Royal Academy of Dance
Not Applicable	SafeCert Awards Limited
STA	Safety Training Awards Limited
Not Applicable	SFEDI Awards
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority
Not applicable	Smart Awards
VTCT	Vocational Training Charitable Trust
WCSM	Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers