Quarterly Statistics Report

Highlights for Quarter 1:

1 April–30 June 2019

An Assurance of Quality

Contents

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 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.

This report summarises the qualification data that has been provided to us by approved awarding bodies. This information covers SQA accredited qualifications during the first quarter (Q1) of 2019–20 (1 April–19 June 2019) and focuses on candidates who were:

♦ registered for an SQA accredited qualification
♦ certificated for an SQA accredited qualification

The data has been analysed in relation to:

♦ qualification type
♦ awarding body
♦ developer
♦ area of competence (ie classification)
♦ Workplace Core Skills

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 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
Quarter 1 (1 April-30 June 2020)	14 July 2020

2   Accredited qualifications

At the end of Q1 of 2019–20 there were 852 live accredited qualifications.[1]

- **543 SVQs** (63.7%)
- **31 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications** (3.6%)
- **278 'Other' qualifications** (32.6%)

[1] Note that this total does not include qualifications that are in their lapsing period.

Figure 1: No. of Accredited Qualifications by Qualification Type

	Q4 2018-19	Q1 2019-20
SVQs	543	543
R&L	31	31
Other	280	278
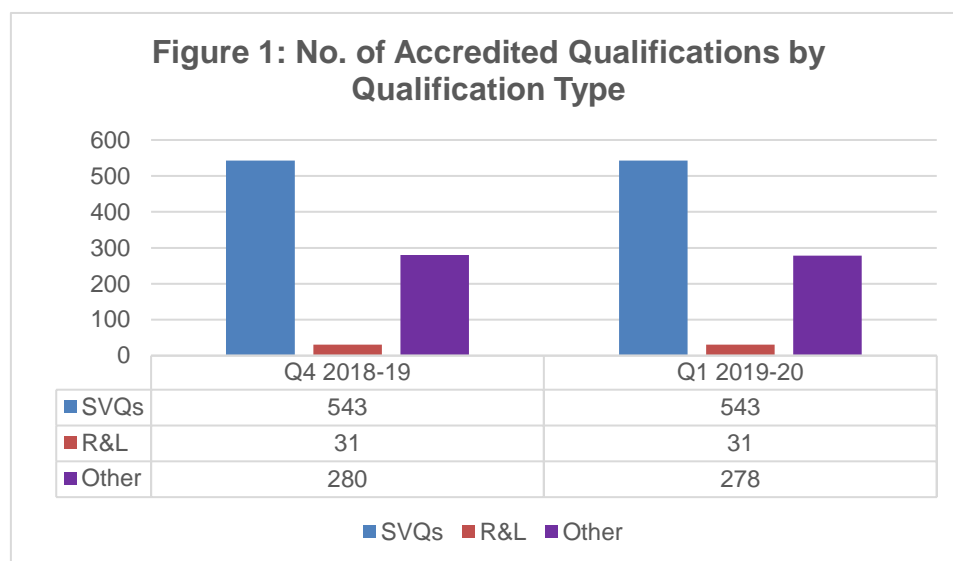
Compared to Q4, the total number of accredited qualifications has decreased by two (a 0.2% decrease). The number of accredited qualifications has remained relatively stable in the last three years.

Figure 2: Number of Accredited Qualifications over 3-year period by Qualification Type
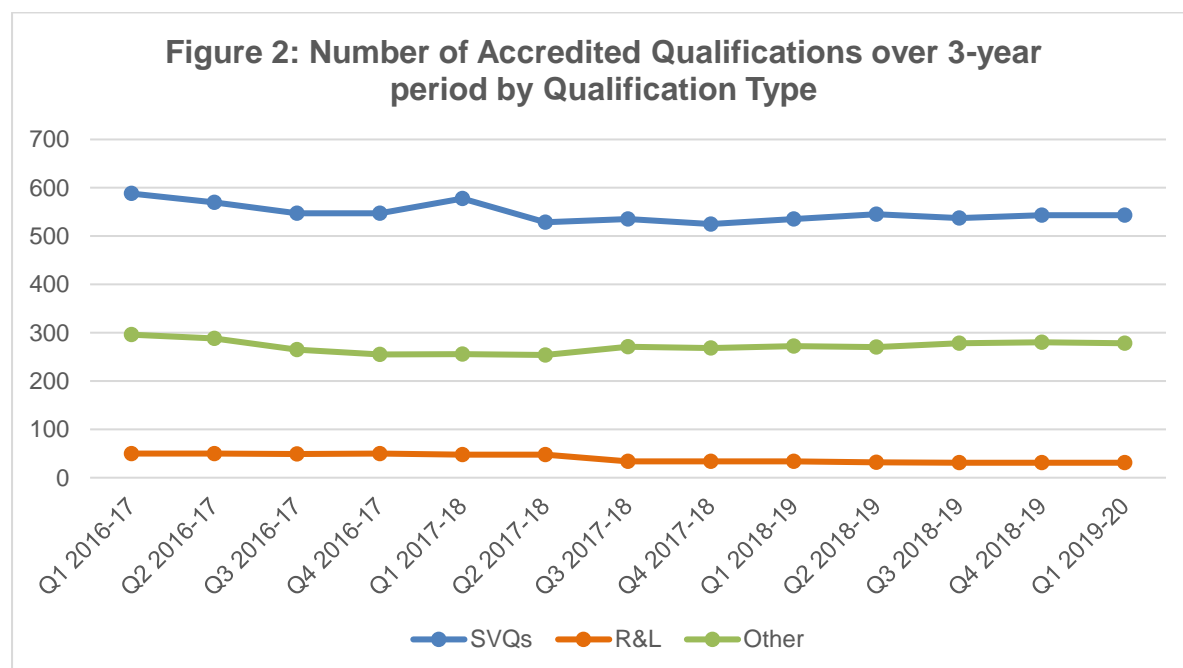
2.1 Total candidate registrations and certifications

2.1.1 Registrations

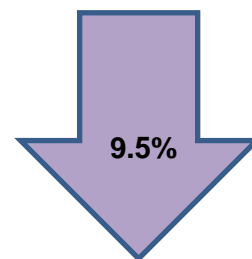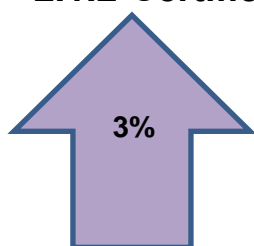**31,567** candidates were registered for SQA accredited qualifications in Q1.

This is 9.5% fewer than in Q4 of the previous year.

9.5%

2.1.2 Certifications

3%

29,948 certificates were awarded for SQA accredited qualifications in Q4.

This is a 3% increase compared to Q4 of 2018–19.

2.2 Top ten qualifications

The qualification with the highest number of both registrations and certifications was the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety.

Table 1: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of registrations

Qualification title	Registrations
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	2,054
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	1,653
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SQA)	1,525
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	1,362
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	1,201
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (First Aid Awards Ltd)	1,165
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (Highfield)	999
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SafeCert)	993
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7	849
SVQ in Social Services (Children and Young People) at SCQF Level 7	819

NEBOSH's National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety had the highest number of registrations in Q1 of 2019–20. Compared to figures from Q4:

♦ Registrations for this qualification in Q1 2019–20 were 20.5% lower than in Q4 2018–19.

Table 2: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of certifications

Qualification title	Certifications
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	1,682
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	1,541
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (SQA)	1,484
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 (BIIAB)	1,351
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work at SCQF Level 6 (First Aid Awards Ltd)	1,149
SVQ in Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 6	1,038
Award in Emergency First Aid at Work SCQF Level 6 (SafeCert)	993
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (Highfield)	982
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 (City & Guilds)	931
Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders at SCQF Level 6 (Highfield)	796

The Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders (Refresher) at SCQF Level 6 had the highest number of certifications in Q1 of 2019–20. Compared to figures from Q4 2018–19:

♦ Certifications for this qualification in Q1 were 28.6% lower than in Q4.

There was a peak in certification numbers in Q4 due to the nature of the Personal Licence certificate. The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires all personal licence holders to undertake refresher training within five years of the issue of their licence. For this reason, there was a sharp increase in certification in the previous year, and this presents as a decrease in Q1 of this year.

2.3 Registrations and certifications by qualification type

The following figures detail the number of registrations and certifications over a three-year period, broken-down by qualification type.
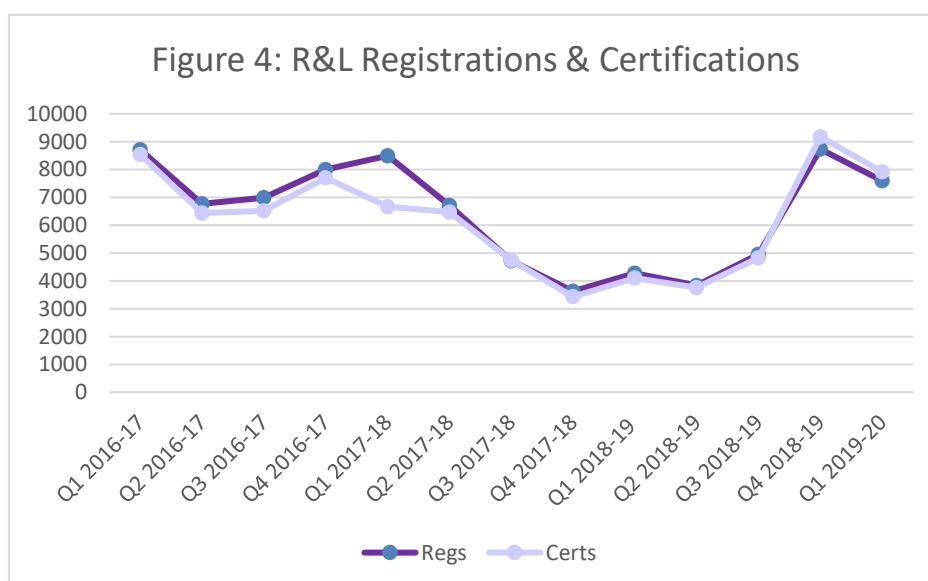
2.3.1 SVQs

♦ 8,718 registrations

♦ 8,643 certifications

Figure 3: SVQ Registrations & Certifications
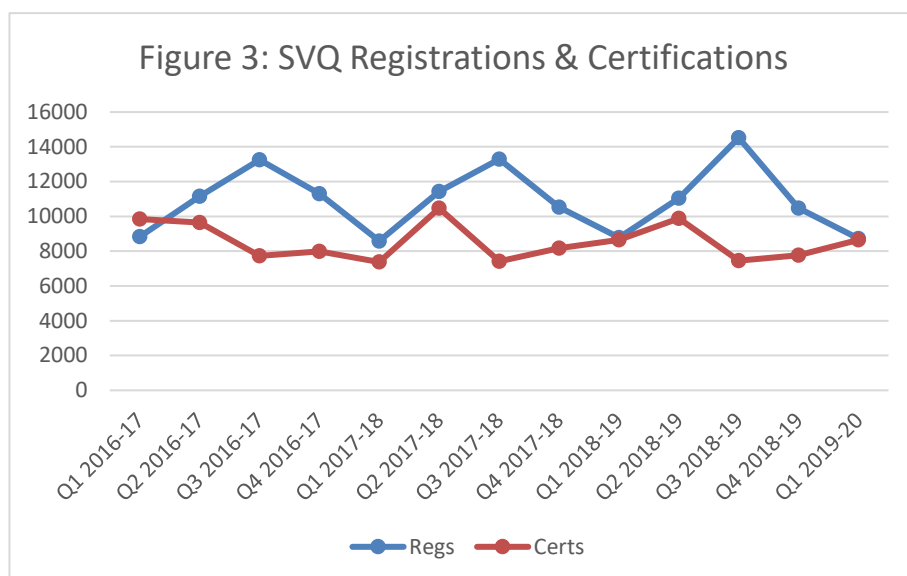
♦ Compared to Q1 of 2018–19, the number of SVQ registrations has decreased by 0.7%.

♦ SVQ certifications in Q1 2019–20 are 0.1% less than those in Q1 of 2018–19.

2.3.2 Regulatory & Licensing (R&L)

♦ 7,596 registrations

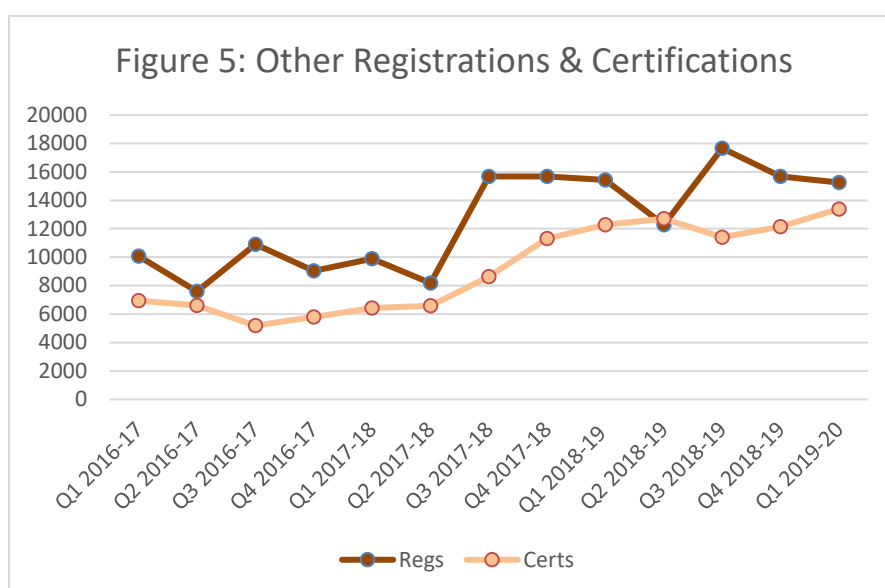♦ 7,914 certifications

Figure 4: R&L Registrations & Certifications

♦ Compared to Q4 of 2018-19, the number of R&L registrations have decreased by 13%.

♦ There were 13.8% fewer R&L certifications in Q1 2019-20 than in Q4 of 2018-19.

2.3.3 'Other' qualifications

♦ 15,513 registrations

♦ 13,618 certifications

Figure 5: Other Registrations & Certifications

♦ Compared to Q4 of 2018–19 the number of registrations for 'Other' qualifications have decreased by 1.1%.

♦ However, there were 12% more 'Other' certifications in Q1 2019–20 than in Q4 of 2018–19.

2.4 Analysis by awarding body

There are currently 37 awarding bodies approved by SQA Accreditation. The number of qualifications offered by each awarding body varies greatly. The five largest awarding bodies, in terms of qualifications offered, are:

| Awarding body	Number of accredited qualifications*
Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)	622
City & Guilds	110
Excellence, Achievement & Learning (EAL)	88
Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI)	78
Pearson Education Limited	45

*Including qualifications that have passed their lapse dates.

Registrations and certifications can be further categorised based on qualification type — ie SVQs, Regulatory & Licensing and 'Other'.

2.3.1 SVQs

SQA continues to have the highest number of SVQ registrations and certifications:
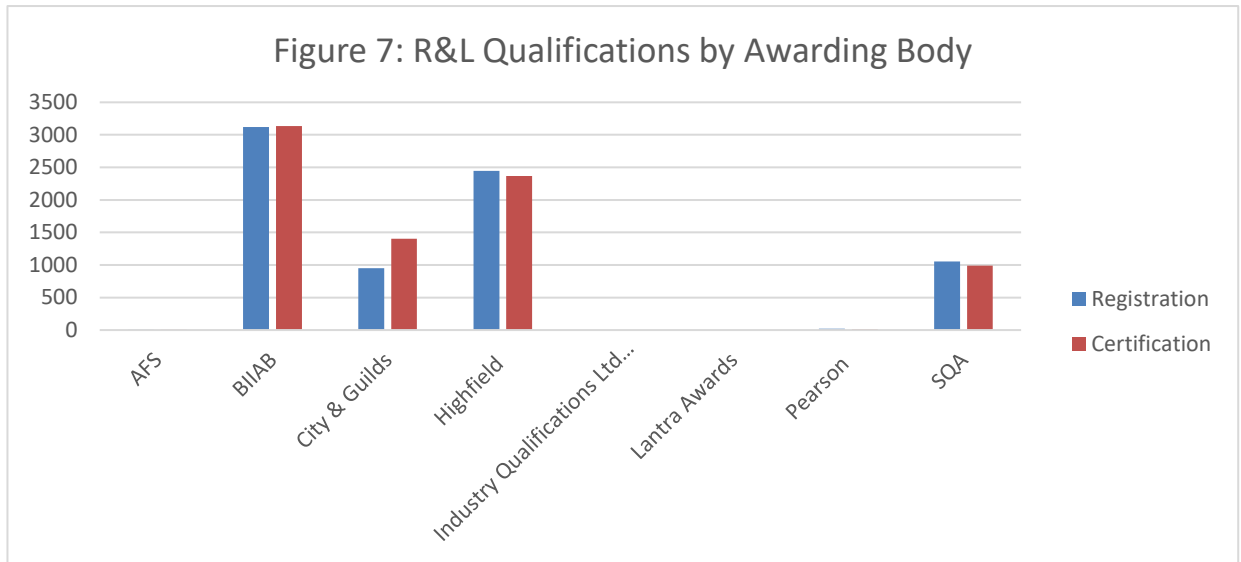
♦ 88.5% of registrations
♦ 85.2% of certifications

Figure 6: SVQ Registrations and Certifications by Awarding Body
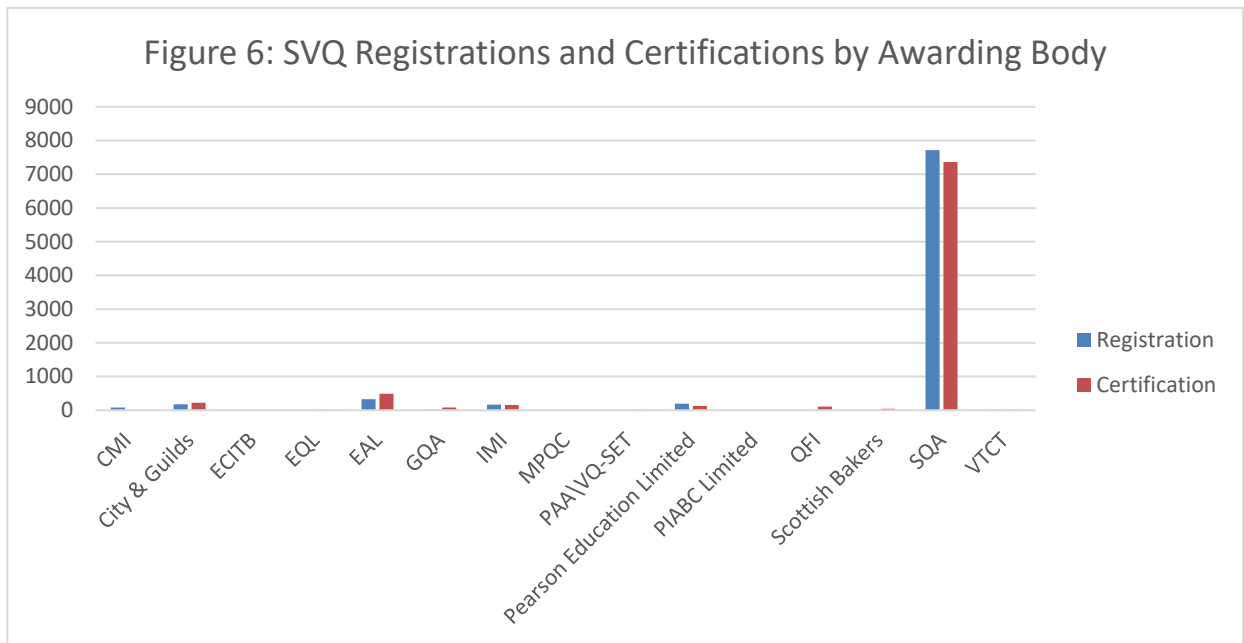
2.3.2 Regulatory and Licensing

BIIAB accounted for the highest number of R&L registrations and certifications:

- ♦ 41.1% of registrations
- ♦ 39.6% of certifications

Figure 7: R&L Qualifications by Awarding Body

2.3.3 'Other' qualifications

NEBOSH continues to have the highest number of 'Other' registrations and certifications of this qualification type:

- ♦ 25% of registrations
- ♦ 20% of certifications

Figure 8: Other Qualifications by Awarding Body
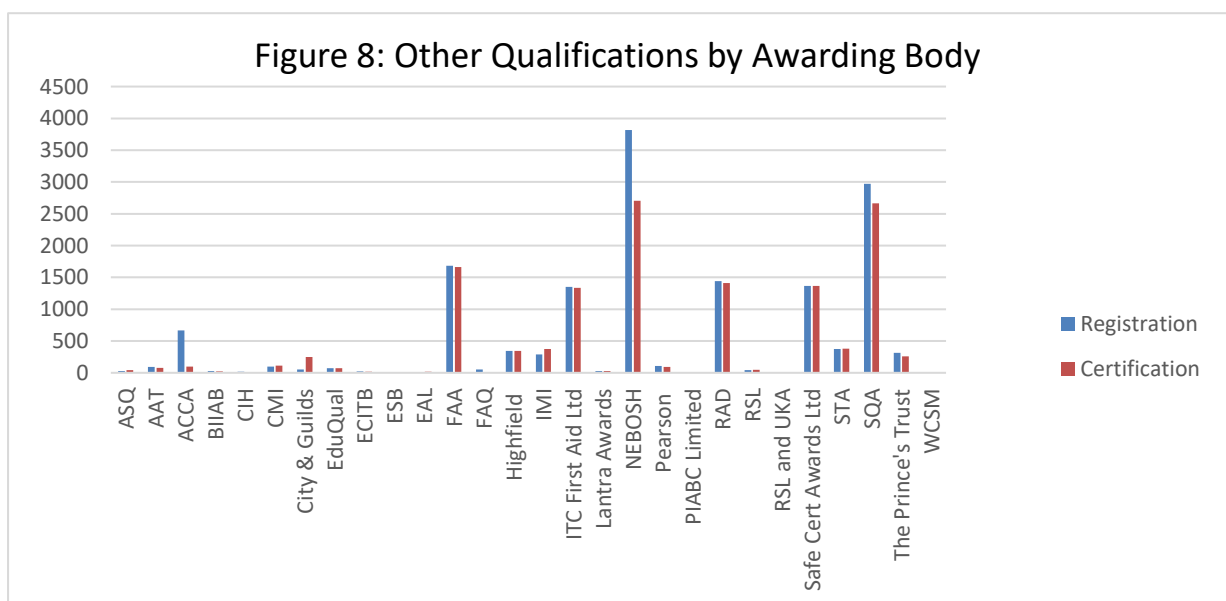
2.5 Analysis by developer

This section compares the registrations and certifications by developer across the three qualification types — SVQs, Regulatory & Licensing and 'Other'.

2.5.1 SVQs

SVQs are favoured across a wide range of developers. Skills for Care and Development account for the largest proportion of SVQ registrations and certifications — 36.7% and 27.8%, respectively.

Figure 9: SVQ Registrations & Certifications by Developer
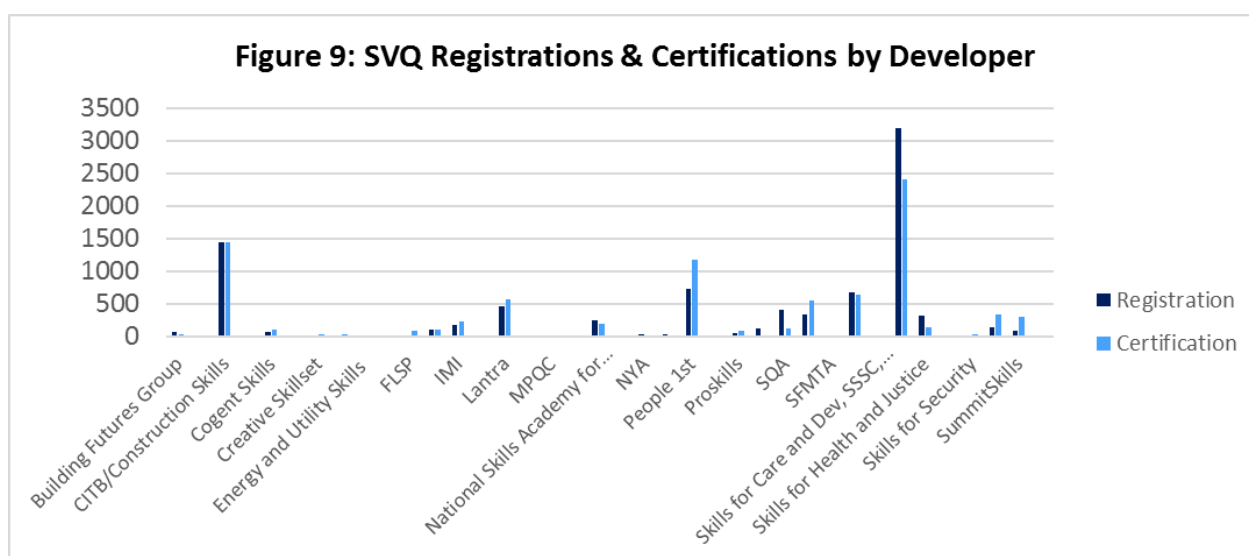
2.5.2 Regulatory and Licensing

Compared to SVQs, Regulatory & Licensing qualifications are offered by a smaller range of developers, and are largely in the Security and First Aid sectors. The category 'People 1st and other awarding bodies' accounts for the largest proportion of registrations (39.7%), and People 1st and the Scottish Government account for the most certifications, (40.2%).

Figure 10: R&L Registrations & Certifications by Developer
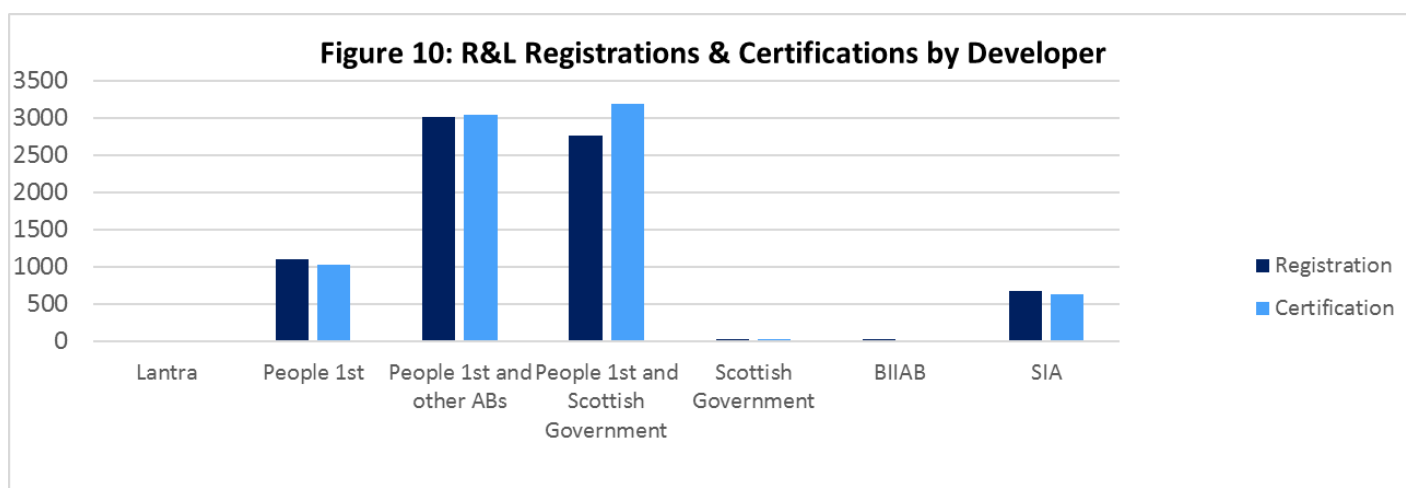
2.5.3 'Other' qualifications

While a wide range of organisations develop '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.

Figure 11: 'Other' Registrations & Certifications by Developer
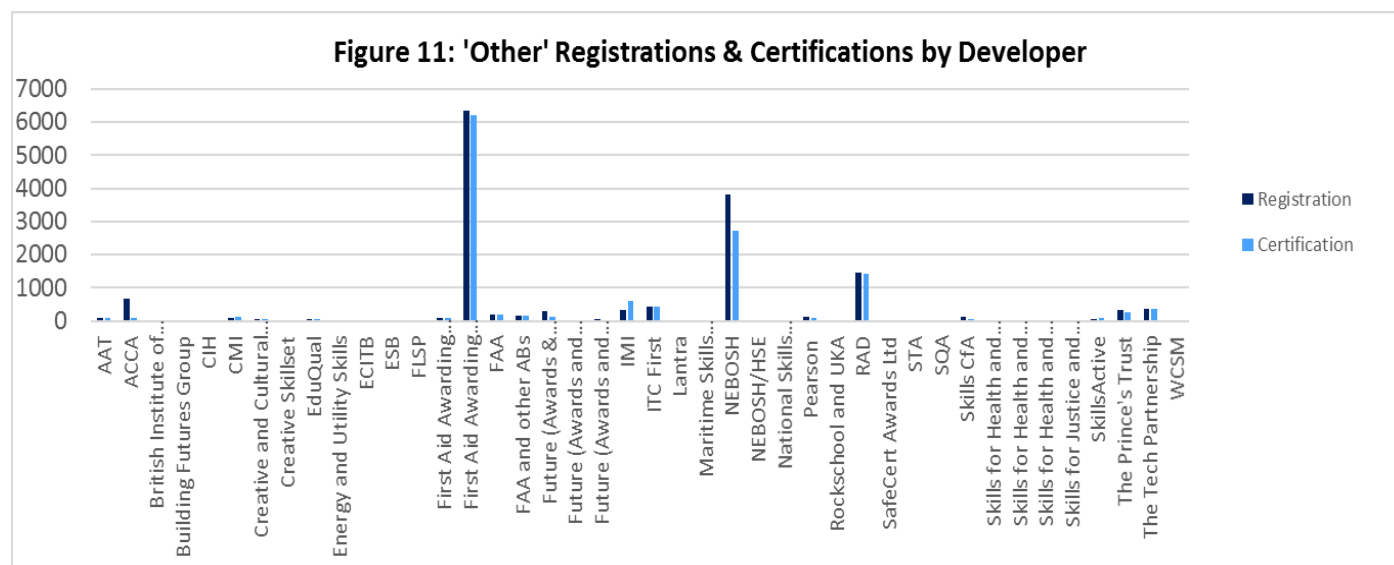
The largest proportion of registrations and certifications are in qualifications developed by the First Aid Awarding Organisation Forum — 41.5% of registrations and 46.3% of certifications.

2.6 New qualification categories

From 1 April 2019, SQA Accreditation has changed the way in which we categorise qualifications. Following a review of the Areas of Competence, a new 16-category system has been adopted. This review evaluated the Areas of Competence in terms of fitness-for-purpose, taking into account the current landscape of qualifications, and determined that the new system is more applicable and relevant, and will lead to more meaningful analysis. The following categories will be used:

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

Figure 12: Registration and Certification by Qualification Category
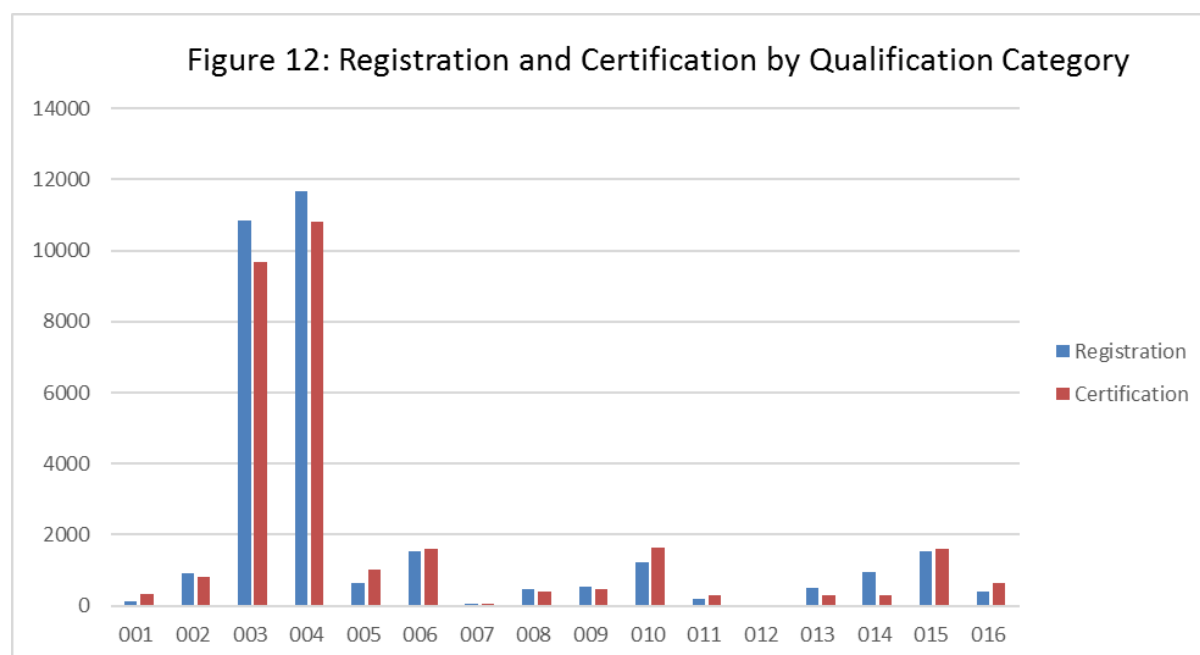
The area with the highest number of registrations and certifications is 004 Protective Services:

♦ 37% of registrations
♦ 36.1% of certifications

By qualification type, the areas of competence with the highest number of registrations and certifications are:

| Qualification type	Highest number of registrations		Highest number of certifications	
	Area	% of total regs	Area	% of total certs
SVQs	003	39.1%	003	29.8%
Regulatory & Licensing	004	100%	004	100%
Other	003	48.7%	003	53.1%

3   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 (ICT)
♦   Numeracy
♦   Problem Solving
♦   Working with Others

At the end of Q1 2019–20, there were:

♦   145 accredited Workplace Core Skills
♦   8,468 registrations (a reduction of 13.9% compared to Q4)
♦   7652 certifications (an increase of 9.3 % compared to Q4)

Figure 13: Workplace Core Skills Registrations and Certifications
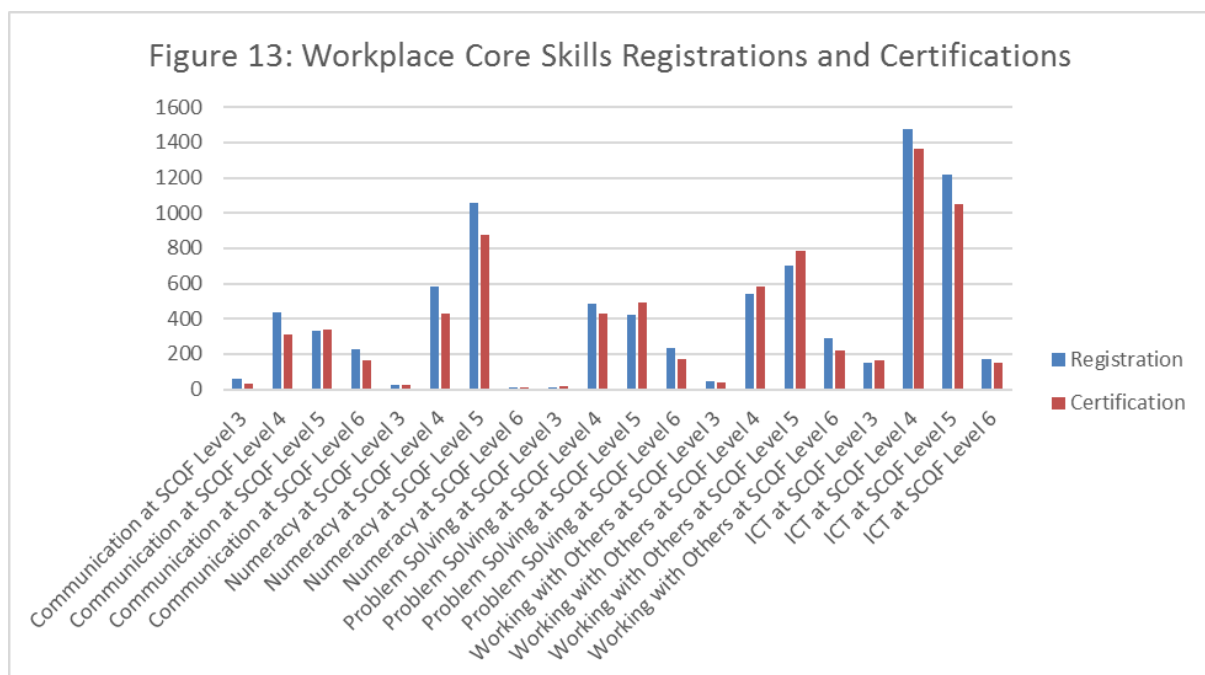
Workplace Core Skills are offered by eight awarding bodies.

Awarding body	Registrations	Certifications
British Institute of Innkeepers Awarding Body (BIIAB)	0	0
City & Guilds	0	437
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Ltd (EAL)	175	184
Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI)	332	714
Pearson Education Limited	1063	516
Qualifications for Industry (QFI)	63	39
Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)	**6,819**	**5,760**
Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)	16	2
Grand total	**8,468**	**7,652**

*City & Guilds registers candidates for Workplace Core Skills on a one-to-many basis using its internal Programme of Study number (PoS), therefore it is not possible at this time to generate registration figures for each Core Skill.

SQA continues to have the highest registrations and certifications for Workplace Core Skills:

♦ 80.5% of registrations
♦ 75.3% of certifications