

Appendix B

The Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland.

An Independent Review

Consultation Response - Phase One

Introduction

Professor Hayward has been appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, to undertake an Independent Review, looking at how the current system could better recognise the achievements of all learners.

Consultation Questions and Responses

Thinking about the Future of Qualifications and Assessment, does the draft Vision Statement accurately reflect what matters most to your community/ies?

Draft Vision

Qualifications and Assessments in Scotland should reflect what matters in the curriculum, recognise every learner's achievements and provide evidence to inspire the next steps in their learning journey.

This Vision for the Future of Qualifications and Assessment in Scotland will.

- Recognise the diversity of achievements of every individual learner.
- Provide a solid foundation to the future for all learners, that will support the next step in their life journey be that in employment, further education, higher education, or through other contributions to society; for example, volunteering.
- Promote a wide range of opportunities that meet the needs of all learners.
- Recognise the rights of children, encourage well-being, and support the lifelong development of citizens, creating a positive future for Scotland and the wider world; and
- Be recognised and valued by all learners, schools, colleges, universities, employers and by society generally.

Response:

The vision should be explicit that the curriculum is what then drives the assessment process which in turn informs any future qualifications suite. Assessment should be designed to take full cognisance of the diversity of achievements referenced above.

What, if anything, would you remove?

Response: *Nothing*

Draft Principles: Your Views

Individual Principles

Please read and provide feedback on the draft Principles below:

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 1:

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Be responsive to the fast-changing needs of individual learners and Scotland in an increasingly complex and globalised society while articulated with a clear and easily understood qualifications framework.

Please share your thoughts on Principle 1.

Response:

We agree with this principle, in particular that the qualifications system should be articulated with a clear and easily understood framework.

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 2:

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Be inclusive both in design, delivery and development involving:

- those to whom qualifications matter most (all individual learners and, as appropriate, their parents and carers).
- those who use qualifications (colleges, universities, employers, wider organisations); and
- those who design and deliver qualifications (teachers, lecturers, qualification boards, accrediting agencies, local authorities).

Please share your thoughts on Principle 2.

Response:

We agree with this principle and recognise that the delivery of the system requires careful consideration.

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 3

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Reflect the aspirations of Curriculum for Excellence.

- What is required for learners to participate fully in Scotland as a 21st century democracy?

Please share your thoughts on Principle 3.

Response:

Agree with this principle, however it could be more explicit around those aspirations/capacities.

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 4

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Recognise the achievements of every learner

- Should support and enable the future goals of all.
- Should have learner pathways that best fit future aspirations including academic and vocational courses.

Please share your thoughts on Principle 4.

Response:

The distinction between academic and vocational is unhelpful as it suggests a binary choice and lack of parity.

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 5

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Be clear, coherent and understood by all as part of a seamless lifelong learning journey.

- Should provide clear and trusted evidence of a wide range of achievements to date and act as a foundation for future learning whatever path an individual learner chooses to take.

Please share your thoughts on Principle 5.

Response:

Agree with this principle

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 6

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Support flexible approaches to assessment.

- Allowing different forms of evidence to contribute to the recognition of achievement.

Please share your thoughts on Principle 6.

Response:

Agree with this principle

DRAFT PRINCIPLE 7

Scotland's Qualifications system should:

Be adaptable and kept under review to ensure that the needs of all learners and wider society continue to be met.

Please share your thoughts on Principle 7.
Response:

Agree with this principle.