

Glasgow Kelvin College

Academic Board – 01 September 2023

Scottish Qualifications Authority Update

Report by Head of Quality

1. Purpose

This paper is intended to apprise members of updates from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) for session 2023-24.

2.

2.1 Assessment Decisions

The SQA introduced a decision tree during the each of the years affected by the covid outbreak. The purpose of the decision tree was to assist college staff to reach assessment decisions using alternative methods when it was not possible to do so using the pre-existing arrangements.

These arrangements are no longer in place and college staff must ensure that the College's normal assessment and verification processes are adhered to during the current session.

2.2 Systems verification

The SQA is conducting a Systems Verification on each of Scotland's colleges. A small team has been tasked with collating the evidence for the audit in order that a self-assessment can be made. The self-assessment will be returned to the SQA in late September and a follow-up visit is expected before the end of 2023. The last Systems Verification in Glasgow Kelvin College took place in 2017.

2.3 External Verification

2.3.1 Outstanding EV visits 2022-23

The College had forty external verification events for non-regulated programmes last session. Two of these have not yet taken place due to ASOS. College staff are continuing to liaise with the SQA regarding these two events.

Across the sector, nine external verifications have been similarly affected. Regulated qualifications and the Round 1 and Round 2 verification events have not been affected.

2.3.2 Regulated Qualifications

The College has received the regulated qualifications selection list from SQA. This list has been sent SCMs for their comments and their preferred timeslots for the visits. All regulated qualifications are externally verified every year.

The return date to the SQA is 15th September.

2.3.3 Group Award Verification

In 2022-23, the SQA appointed a lead verifier for group award verifications. The lead verifier was responsible for coordinating the verification team during the visit. This session, the SQA verifications support team will take over that responsibility.

This currently being process-mapped at SQA and colleges will be advised of the new format once it becomes available.

2.3.4 External verification Focus Groups

The SQA will be holding a number of focus groups in order to receive feedback on the merits of virtual visits vs. on-site visits. Details are expected to be sent out to colleges around the end of September. College staff will be advised when these are taking place.

3. Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4. Equalities

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

5. Environmental and Sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability issues arising directly from this report.

6. Risk and Assurance

This report provides assurance that the College is adhering to current quality assurance guidance provided by awarding bodies.

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of the report.

9. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from John Gallagher, Quality Enhancement Manager (jgallagher@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk) or Robin Ashton, Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement (rashton@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk)