

**Federation of Awarding Bodies –response to the Ofqual Consultation on withdrawing our rules for Principal Learning and Diploma Qualifications, April 2017**

**Overview of the Federation of Awarding Bodies**

The Federation of Awarding Bodies is the trade association for vocational and technical awarding organisations (AOs) with 125 organisations in full membership ranging from large generic AOs to those working in specific occupational areas, including professional bodies. Some of our members will have awarded the Principal Learning and Diploma qualifications so we welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

This response is submitted on behalf of the Federation’s membership following consultation with them and with the Federation’s Board of Directors. However, AOs are a diverse community and our members may wish to make their own individual submissions containing their own perspectives and emphases, in addition to any comments forwarded to the Federation for inclusion in this overall response.

**Question 1:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to withdraw all our qualification-specific rules for Principal Learning qualifications?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons

The Federation welcomes Ofqual’s proposals to remove the qualification-specific rules for Principal Learning (PL) qualifications on the basis that the only PL qualifications that are being withdrawn by the end of September 2018. The General Conditions of Regulation provide an extensive set of regulations which we are confident be more than adequate for the regulation of the PL qualifications for the remainder of their time. We see no value in continuing to have additional sets of rules in place where they add no value to the regulatory landscape and we support Ofqual’s streamlining of regulatory documents.

**Question 2:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with our proposal to withdraw our remaining qualification-specific rules for Diploma qualifications?

- Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neither agree nor disagree  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons

The Federation welcomes Ofqual's proposals to remove the remaining qualification-specific rules for Diploma qualifications on the basis that these qualifications are no longer available in England. We see no value in continuing to have a set of rules in place that do not apply to any 'live' qualifications.

**Question 3:** We have not identified any ways in which the proposed changes would impact (positively or negatively) on persons who share a protected characteristic. Are there any potential impacts we have not identified?

The Federation has not identified any potential impacts on persons who share protected characteristics.

**Question 4:** Are there any additional steps we could take to mitigate any negative impact resulting from these proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic?

The Federation has not identified any additional steps Ofqual could take to mitigate any negative impact resulting from these proposals on persons who share protected characteristics.

**Question 5:** Do you have any other comments on the impacts of the proposals on persons who share a protected characteristic?

The Federation has no comments on the impacts of the proposals on students who share protected characteristics.

**Question 6:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with our assessment of the regulatory impact of our proposals? Are there any regulatory impacts that we have not identified?

- Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neither agree nor disagree  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree

Please explain your reasons

The Federation agrees that as the PL qualifications are being withdrawn that the engagement of Condition D7 and the requirements of the current GCRs will require the PL qualifications to be delivered in the same way until their withdrawal. We have not identified any impact of these proposals.

**Question 7:** Are there any additional steps we could take to minimise the regulatory impact of our proposals?

The Federation has not identified any significant regulatory burden associated with these proposals and consequently, we have not identified any steps that Ofqual should take to minimise the regulatory burden of the proposals.

**Question 8:** Are there any costs or benefits associated with our proposals which we have not identified?

The Federation has not identified any costs associated with these proposals. The benefit is a streamlining of regulation, which is always welcomed.

### **Further information**

Further information and clarification can be obtained from Ailin O’Cathain, Head of Policy, [ailin.ocathain@awarding.org.uk](mailto:ailin.ocathain@awarding.org.uk), telephone: 02037863171