



Skills for Wales

Construction and the Built Environment qualifications

Briefing toolkit to support sector
stakeholder communications



It's estimated that there are **13,000 companies** working in the sector, employing more than **130,000 people** and contributing **6.5% of the country's Gross Value Added.**

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Introduction to building the future

Construction and the built environment is one of the most important employment sectors in Wales.

It's estimated that there are 13,000 companies working in the sector, employing more than 130,000 people and contributing 6.5% of the country's Gross Value Added.

That's why Qualifications Wales chose it for a major review of the qualifications available in the industry.

Vocational qualifications, including those for construction and the built environment, make up 90% of the regulated qualifications available in Wales. As such, they need to reflect the skills that employers need.

The aim of the review was to assess the qualifications available in the sector and decide whether they needed to be changed in any way. A large part of this work involved meeting and talking with both large and small scale employers across Wales, as well as those teaching the qualifications in schools and colleges, to find out what they need.

We want to thank all our sector stakeholders for the support they have provided through the sector review and the part they are playing in helping guide these qualifications to meet the needs of employers, learners and delivery centres across Wales.

Particular thanks goes to the British Association of Construction Heads and the Stakeholder Advisory Group for their careful steering and wise guidance, which we are most grateful for.





What improvements are coming

Qualifications Wales has laid the foundation for the future of the industry by appointing City & Guilds, EAL and WJEC to collaborate on the development of a new suite of fundable Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications in Wales. These new qualifications will start to help simplify the complex landscape of more than 400 qualifications available in the sector.

The collaboration brings together the strength of market-leading awarding bodies in qualifications and skills development in the construction and built environment sector with the joint aim of empowering people with opportunities for the future.

Qualifications ready for first teaching in September 2021:

- GCSE
- Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment Level 2
- Progression in Construction Level 2
- Progression in Building Services Engineering Level 2
- Construction Level 3 Two-year
- Construction Level 3 Three-year
- Building Services Engineering Level 3 Three-year (Plumbing and Heating)
- Building Services Engineering Level 3 Four-year (Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment Installation).

Qualifications prepared for first teaching in September 2022:

- AS and A level

The purpose of the new qualifications is to help contribute towards positive outcomes for learners by making learners more work-ready.

We will help do this by:

- developing qualifications that meet employers needs by putting them at the heart of the development process
- supporting schools, colleges and training providers through the changes that will be required of them
- adopting a simplified assessment strategy to reduce the burden on delivery to give more time for teaching
- providing learners with clear progression routes so they can picture their path onto further study or into employment
- helping to achieve the ambition of empowering a bilingual nation with bilingual learning resources, assessments and centre support.





Timeline of reforms

To help prepare centres, training providers and learners the following activities are planned:



August – September 2019

During this time City & Guilds/EAL will be hosting a series of consultation activities with centres and stakeholders to discuss the qualifications content and assessment in more detail.

November 2019

City & Guilds/EAL will be inviting centres and stakeholders to take part in a survey as part of the consultation process.

December 2019

City & Guilds/EAL start to submit draft qualification specifications to Qualifications Wales.

March 2020

A new bilingual 'Skills for Wales' website from City & Guilds/EAL will be live with qualification descriptions. Events and webinars will start to be made available over time.



Summer 2020

City & Guilds/EAL will continue to submit draft qualifications in stages to Qualifications Wales – draft versions of qualification specification handbooks will be available over this period of time.

December 2020

Qualifications Wales plan to approve the qualifications at this time following which final specification handbooks and key documents will be made available in Welsh and English.

Spring 2021

Training events will be taking place for centres wishing to deliver the new qualifications.

Submissions of centre approval applications will commence.

September 2021

New suite of qualifications to be delivered to learners.



September 2022

New AS/A level to be delivered to learners with a termly series of events to support centres with teaching across all qualifications.





What we want you to do

Thank you for your interest in supporting these important qualifications. As a valued partner, your organisation is crucial in getting the word out to those currently working in the construction and building services engineering industry to encourage businesses and other organisations to understand the qualifications and to use them as part of their apprenticeship programmes when they are ready from September 2021.

There are lots of things you can do to help make this programme of change a success. We've included some starter resources in this toolkit to help make it as straightforward as possible for you to support us by spreading the word to build trust in the qualifications and create interactions by engaging your teams, and networks.

Three easy steps to support:

- 1. Use the articles in this toolkit on your website, or create your own from the key messages section**
- 2. Use your social media channels to raise awareness of the information available on the new Skills for Wales website, and support the developing qualifications**
- 3. Ask your teams and contacts in your network to sign up to receive information directly from Skills for Wales by signposting to the skillsforwales.wales website.**

We appreciate your help in spreading the word about the changes that are coming to the new landscape of qualifications in construction and the built environment.

We hope that this toolkit will enable and empower you to use your channels and influence as a way of drawing attention to the improvements to build confidence amongst employers, learners and parents in the new qualifications.



Talking about the skills and qualifications

To help you spread the word about the changes to the qualifications landscape, we have drafted two pieces of text: **One news item for your partners and networks, and one shorter news flash.**



News items for partners and networks

> Talking about the skills and qualifications

A new suite of fundable Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications are being developed to better meet the skills needs of Wales and will be ready for first teaching from September 2021.

> Simplifying a complex qualification landscape

The change aims to streamline the complex situation of more than 400 qualifications in construction and building services engineering in Wales. The current swathe of qualifications provides a confusing patchwork of skills and progression options for learners.

City & Guilds, EAL and WJEC are working with employers, sector representatives, skills card schemes and the standard setting body to build a new landscape of qualifications with clear progression options for learners and ensuring they are fit for the modern workplace.

> The qualifications

The qualifications have been designed for a modern curriculum to help future proof the skills and knowledge needed in the built environment industry.

Academic options are being created with a GCSE, AS and A level. Vocational options start with a Level 2 Foundation in Construction and the Built Environment qualification. This qualification includes two trade areas of interest and employability skills. Once achieved learners can progress onto a Level 3 trade specialism as part of an apprenticeship. Those who have not secured an apprenticeship by their second year can take the Progression Qualification to strengthen their trade skills in one area.

There will be several trade pathways available for colleges and training providers to select from and deliver to their learners.

> Get involved

Organisations in the industry are being encouraged to ask their staff to get involved in helping shape these qualifications and raise awareness of the changes across their networks and teams.

Search Skills for Wales to keep up to date with the development of these qualifications and receive regular information, news and notice of events.

News flash

A new suite of fundable Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications are being developed to better meet the skills needs of Wales and will be ready for first teaching from September 2021.

Designed with employers, the change will simplify what is currently a complex landscape of more than 400 qualifications to provide clear progression routes and qualifications that will make learners more ready for further study and progression to the workplace.

Search Skills for Wales to keep up to date with the development of these qualifications and receive regular information, news and notice of events.





Key messages

- Simplifying the landscape of 400+ qualifications
- Qualifications designed with industry
- Empowering a bilingual nation
- Work ready recruits
- Knowledge tested through practical skills
- Streamlining assessment
- Coherent progression for learners





Social media example tweets:

Using the default #skillsforwales is recommended.



@cityandguilds, @eal and @wjec_cbac – driving up standards in #Construction #Building Services Engineering qualifications in Wales. #skillsforwales

Find out more about the new qualifications by signing up to our email updates: skillsforwales.wales/sign-up



#SkillsforWales website is now live. #construction #building services engineering #qualifications

Sign up to receive email updates: skillsforwales.wales/sign-up

