



By email

22 February 2021

To all centres offering, or intending to offer, Construction and Building Services Engineering (CBE) qualifications in Wales from September 2021.

In December 2020 we wrote to you outlining the transitional arrangements we had put in place for learners and centres during the introduction of the new Construction and Building Services Engineering qualifications in Wales. Since then there has been further disruption to teaching and training across Wales due to the new lockdown and the move to on-line learning for most learners. Qualifications Wales has considered the impact on providers and, after consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, has revised the arrangements that will be in place for this September and September 2022 regarding the availability of current and new CBE qualifications.

In considering the arrangements we acknowledge the on-going challenges faced by the education sector and the construction and building services engineering sectors caused by COVID-19. We have discussed the options available with a variety of stakeholders including learning providers, sector bodies, awarding bodies and Welsh Government. We also wanted the arrangements outlined in this letter to be as flexible as possible, thereby avoiding the need for further changes.

The following arrangements will be in place for September 2021:

- We will allow the designation of current qualifications for one further year (until 31 May 2022);
- The new GCSE Built Environment will be available from September 2021;
- The new Foundation in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) and Progression in Construction and Building Services Engineering (Level 2) will be available from September 2021;

- The new Construction Level 3 and Building Services Engineering Level 3 qualifications for apprenticeships will be deferred by one year and will now be available to centres for first teaching from September 2022;
- The A Level Built Environment will be available from September 2022 as originally planned.

While we will allow for the extension of designation of the current qualifications, we would encourage you to start learners on the new qualifications as early as possible as this will support their progression into future study and training. We will continue to work towards having suitable transitional arrangements for learners in September 2022. We have considered all of the possible learner profiles for September 2021 and September 2022 and provide an infographic in Annex A outlining the progression journeys we believe will be available to learners over the next three years.

We will be hosting a virtual Q&A sessions at 4pm on [8 March](#) and [15 March](#) to answer any questions or queries you may have about these arrangements. For further information about the new qualifications please visit the Skills for Wales website.

Yours sincerely



Philip Blaker

Chief Executive