

## Do Awarding Organisation (AO) plans and priorities factor in Ofqual plans?

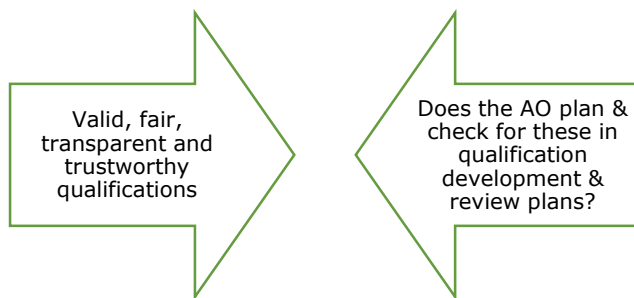


*Ofqual have just published their Corporate Plan 2015-18; also their Regulatory Burden and Regulatory Strategy Statements.*

*Looking at Ofqual's plans - should they inform AO priorities and plans? Here's some observations and thoughts..*

### What's the end game?

When talking about qualifications 'valid and trusted' are coupled in Ofqual's *Regulatory Statement*; and 'fairness and transparency' in their *Corporate Plan 2015-18*.



### What goals and plans does the AO have?

It's great that Ofqual share information about their goals, what they seek to achieve and by when?

For AOs there is a mesmerising mix of plans they might have: corporate, strategic, business, operational, qualification development, etc. Below are the key ones I like to see.



<b>Amongst Ofqual stated plans for 2015/16</b>	
Classify how we will evaluate & audit validity & issue guidance	Gather evidence on the efficiency of the qualifications market
Regulate to improve assessment in functional skills qualifications and consistency of standards between different AOs	Develop risk modelling and analysis capacity
Regulate new apprenticeship assessment as requested	Implement new, consistent and risk based processes to deliver regulatory strategy
Withdraw QCF	Improve quality and accessibility of information on qualifications on RITS
Audit & where appropriate enforce compliance	Introduce a new descriptive framework to replace the QCF
<b>And for 2016/18</b>	
Raise expectations of the depth and quality of AO engagement with employers, reflecting the needs of different industry sectors	Implement new RITS

**Plans are there to be made, but also unmade or abandoned**

There will always be a need for rapid response, shifts and changes that aren't mentioned in the plan. Letting plans overtake you can also lose opportunities for the AO.

Ability to respond, work flexibly and rapidly are important characteristics for an AO. Organisations need planners but also need spontaneous, creative and brave decision takers too.

**Would you benefit from an independent review of your AO's planning framework and/or support to develop it?**

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