

On Validity

The Ofqual agenda

We have been hearing more from Ofqual about 'validity'. That it will be at 'the heart' of what they do. This was the main thrust from Glenys Stacey (Chief Regulator at Ofqual) at the October FAB conference.

In removing the accreditation requirement Ofqual say they will be asking more of AOs. That AOs must be constantly reviewing the quality of qualifications throughout their lifetime rather than just fixed on having a quality assurance process for qualification development, or holding a review prior to submission to the Register.

What the Conditions of Recognition already require

We all know the current requirements amount to:

- focus on the quality of qualifications;
- take action where there are problems;
- be flexible and respond to the needs of employers, and to professional, practice and technological developments in the field;
- provide accessible information about qualifications.

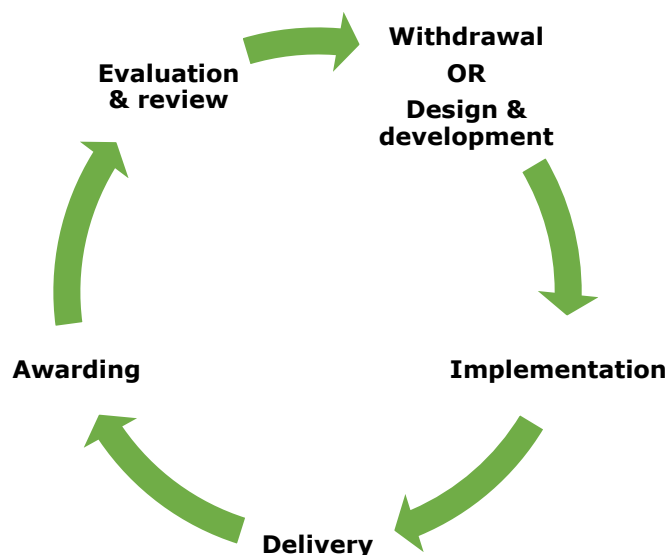
As the General Conditions of Recognition already point us towards.

But what does Glenys Stacey mean when she says Ofqual's approach is to put 'validity at the centre of the way we regulate and we see validity as the primary measure of a qualification's true quality'?

How does an AO show that a qualification is valid? And where is this evidence?

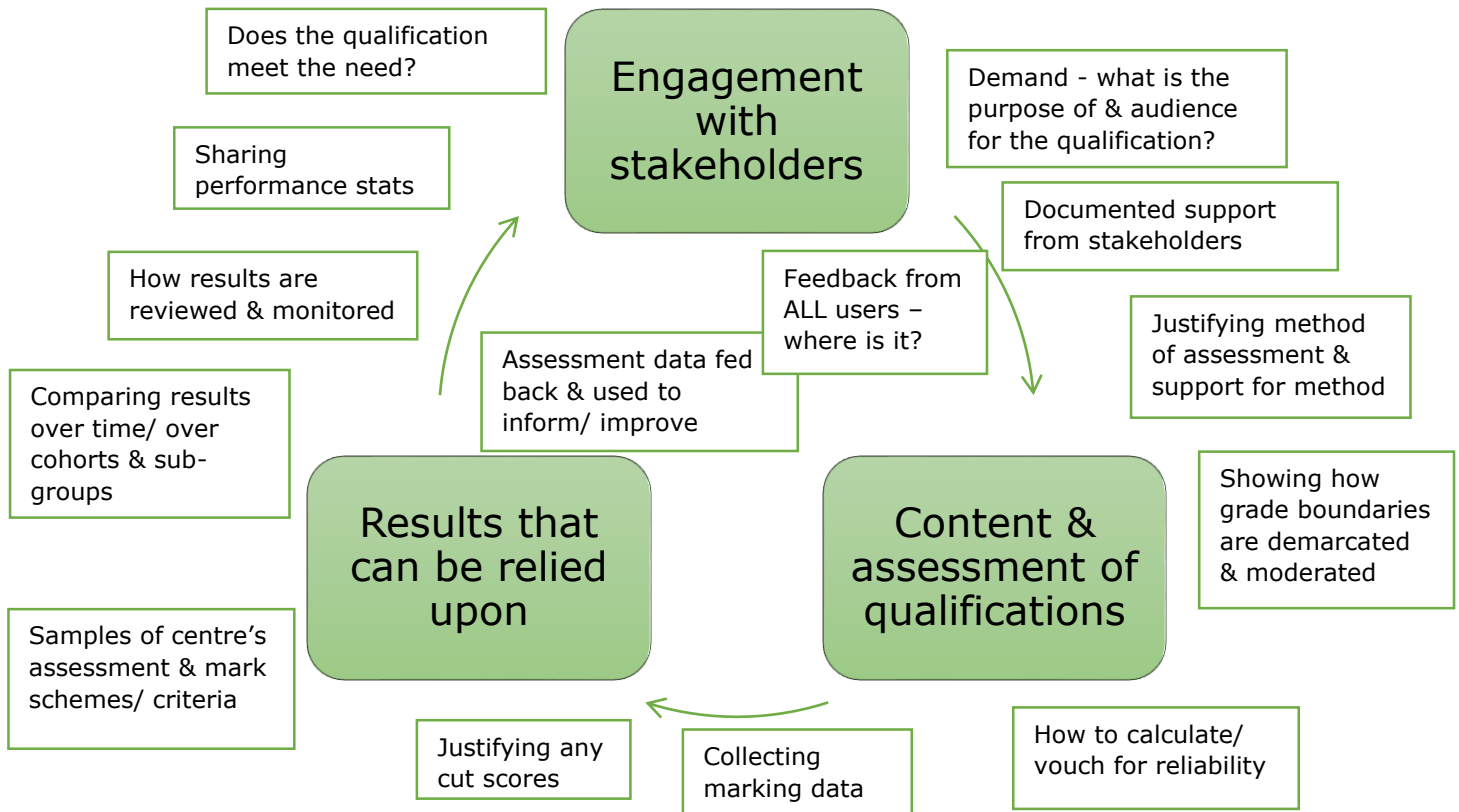
Qualification lifecycle and validity evidence

A useful starting point could be to consider what processes and information you already have around the qualification lifecycle:



This can help to start building up a more detailed picture of what you have, or what you might need.

Information that may sought, or questions asked about



Validity audits

Ofqual will be introducing more validity audits and some early thinking about this is recommended. Some big picture questions that could also be posed:

- How do you demonstrate you are experts in the sector/s you operate in and how can you show you have the right assessment expertise?
- What value do you add to the sector – how do you support the sector/s and know that the qualifications meet the needs of the sector as intended.
- How can you show that you are responsive to employer and industry needs, to technical or other innovations?
- How do you seek and act on feedback about qualifications?
- How are you supporting teaching and learning for the qualifications in the sector?

If you found this useful

Heather Venis of Awarding First provides a range of guidance and works with AOs to support compliance and qualification agendas.

If you would like to talk about validity and how it might affect your work, please call Heather on 0789 479 6262

