



Sent by email to: [educom@parliament.uk](mailto:educom@parliament.uk)

Helen Hayes MP

Chair of the Education Select Committee

Subject: Outcomes of the Level 3 Review of Qualifications

22 January 2025

Dear Helen,

Following our exchange of letters before Christmas, I wanted to write to you now on the [Outcomes of the Focused Review on 12 December 2024](#), to provide some insight into the views of the qualifications and assessment sector which you may find helpful for the Committee's work this year.

Following the Focused Review, two items are of particular interest:

- a) The long-term plan for qualifications at levels 3 and below
- b) The detail regarding the spring submission cycle announced in the outcomes report (for new level 3 qualifications in health and science; construction; digital; care services; and education and early years) and the transition of operations from IfATE to Skills England.

### **The long-term plan for qualifications at levels 3 and below**

We understand the rationale to not pre-empt the findings of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, and to allow them to consider the longer-term approach to qualifications at level 3 and below. With the Curriculum and Assessment Review currently due to report in Autumn 2025, we are conscious of the need to avoid another cliff edge in qualification provision, particularly in September 2026 when a number of qualifications are now due to be removed from funding. We are also conscious that the Panel's scope with regards to FE is for provision at 16-19, and they will not consider adult provision.

The long-term plan should account for the time and resource awarding organisations will need to develop qualifications, and the needs of providers to plan their curriculum provision ahead of September 2026. Engagement with awarding organisations and colleges will be crucial for the Government to get this process right. It is also important that the particular needs of adult learners are not forgotten in this process.



**The spring submission cycle: for new level 3 qualifications in health and science; construction; digital; care services; and education and early years**

We are expecting further guidance from the Department for Education on the spring submission cycle in the coming weeks. A key concern from our members has been the short timescales between the release of this guidance and the anticipated submission date for new qualifications. Clarity from the Department around the expectations, including whether they have identified any existing gaps in provision, will be key.

We are also conscious that this submission cycle will likely bridge the transition from IfATE to Skills England (subject to the passage of the legislation). We think there is a need for clarity on how this transition will be managed. There is a likely scenario where qualifications are submitted to IfATE but approved by another body.

The transition arrangements for operational functions from IfATE is a broader concern. It will directly impact on the current portfolio of approximately 180-190 apprenticeship revisions and new developments; the approval of new technical qualifications; and the management of T Level contracts. We are conscious of the need for clarity around the responsible owner, how the transition will be managed, and the plan for implementation of system improvement (including related to the levy). It may be that this information is forthcoming, but our members report that uncertainty may already be influencing employers' thoughts regarding investment decisions in apprenticeship training.

I hope the above is helpful for yourself and the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Green".

**DANIEL GREEN**

Policy Director

Federation of Awarding Bodies