

**National Qualifications 2023 Strategic Group**

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**Date:** Friday 10 February 2023

**Time:** 09:30 – 10:45

**Location:** MS Teams

**Members:** Fiona Robertson; [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] Jean Blair; Gill Stewart; Margaret Farragher; John Booth; [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

**Attending:** [REDACTED]; Kat Hannah; [REDACTED]  
 instead of [REDACTED]

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**Notes**

Item	Topic
8.1	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] <b>Out of scope</b>
8.2	<p><b>Arrangements For National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Course Assessment in Session 2023-2024</b></p> <p>The Chair noted that the decision to adopt Option 3 was, in principle, the preference of the NQ Strategic Group, as previously discussed. [REDACTED] introduced the item.</p> <p>Members noted that a breakdown of subject specific details would clarify the proposals for the future of the modifications. A request was also made for a Learner Panel discussion about this item before communications are issued.</p> <p>Members were informed that an EIS-led consultation had been carried out with practitioners and messages were largely consistent with those in the paper. A key issue was raised about coursework in some areas – some practitioners felt coursework should be removed while others recognised the role it plays in balancing the assessment to</p>

	<p>ensure it is not 100% exam. Some modifications had been beneficial in addressing workload issues for practitioners. This highlighted the complexity of views held.</p> <p>Members agreed that clear criteria should be developed to guide the decision-making/approval process. A mapping exercise was recommended to ensure that learner progression was being monitored and that no gaps existed between levels (e.g. progression from National 5 to Higher). This should also be considered for further and higher education. It was noted that some early signs of skills deficit were being seen in some HEIs.</p> <p>SQA outlined some of the themes highlighted during Awarding 2022 and noted that the removal of practical work in the sciences was introduced to ensure public health guidance was followed. Evidence from awarding strongly indicated that coursework tends to benefit candidates, while also helping learners to prepare for the exam by consolidating knowledge. It was noted that some courses (e.g, National 5 Media, and National 5 Art and Design) would like to retain modifications that helped to address over-assessment.</p> <p>SQA confirmed that a set of principles and parameters had been developed that would be used as criteria for making decisions on the future of modifications. The retention of any modifications must be based on evidence from Awarding 2022 and will be by exception only. Approval will be agreed by SQA senior management through a ratification process. It was recognised that the coherence of our approach within and across subjects would be subject to scrutiny and so would be a particular focus of our work.</p> <p>The Chair noted that a discussion with the Learner Panel would be arranged as part of this process before communications are issued. It was confirmed that the Learner Panel included representation from further and higher education and included learners with Additional Support Needs.</p>
8.3	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Out of scope</p>
8.4	<b>Next Steps/AOB</b>
	Date of next meeting – <b>Friday 17 March 2023</b>