



THE SCQF: LEADING THE WAY IN SCOTLAND'S LEARNING

19/20 Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership Annual Impact Report



scottish credit and qualifications framework



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Richard Lochhead MSP

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INTRODUCTION

Richard Lochhead MSP Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science



“Scotland’s education system provides the people of Scotland with a gateway to improving their life chances and developing as individuals, as well as acquiring the skills and qualifications that we need for the economy. The SCQF Partnership is a vital part of that education system, providing important and appropriate access to education and training to people over their lifetime.

I was delighted to learn that this year the SCQF Partnership was awarded the Investors in People Gold award, a great achievement, recognising the hard work and commitment of the Partnership.

The extension of the School Ambassador programme was another outstanding achievement with over 100 schools across all local authorities engaging with the programme. The development of Senior Phase learning pathways in line with the Developing the Young Workforce strategy is one of the many valuable aspects of the programme. Important progress has also been made this year with the further development of the College Ambassador Programme offering colleges the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of the SCQF and the wider ways in which it supports learners.

I am also grateful for the Partnership’s continued commitment to the Learner Journey Review and to the implementation of the recommendations of the Review, where young people from across Scotland told us about their desire for more choice and clear planned pathways in support of their progression. Our Learner Journey programme will ensure Scotland’s education and skills system continues to meet the needs of all learners. This year has brought with it challenges which none of us could have foreseen. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the delivery of education in a way that is truly unprecedented. Our priority remains to deliver excellence in teaching and equity across Scottish education, with an immediate emphasis on supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people. It is therefore more important than ever that we continue to invest in the right qualifications and the right types of learning to deliver the best outcomes for our young people and for the Scottish Economy. I commend the SCQF Partnership for their achievements this year.”

THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.



SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications			Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12				Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11				Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10				Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9			Professional Development Award	Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8		Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate		Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher				Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5				Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award		SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3				
2	National 2, Awards				
1	National 1, Awards				

WELCOME TO OUR 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT

Chair & CEO's Report

Over the past year, our key areas of focus were capacity building, supporting key aspects of the Government's education agenda and continuing to ensure the widest possible engagement with our stakeholders.

We extended our School Ambassador Programme and by the year end we had over 100 schools across all local authorities who had engaged with the programme and been trained. Feedback on this has been very positive and we hope to sustain continued growth launching a revised version of the programme in autumn 2020. In addition we continued to expand our College Ambassador Programme with another 4 colleges joining the programme during the year.

We further developed our work to support Veterans, creating a number of new leaflets for specific roles in the Army and also providing advice to the MoD in understanding the range of qualifications they support and how these relate to the SCQF.

We reviewed our support for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and in addition to workshops we also completed a full review of the online RPL toolkit which streamlined the system and hopefully made it even easier for a diverse group of individuals to engage with it.

Quality Assurance of the SCQF is always central to our work and during the year we undertook a full review of our quality assurance model taking feedback from Credit Rating bodies, our Board and Quality Committee along with our external reviewers. The updated model was approved by the Board in March and will be rolled out during 2021.

We launched a campaign called Inclusive Recruiter to ask businesses to consider using the SCQF levels in job adverts rather than naming qualifications. The benefits of this are to open up the potential pool of applicants who may have a range of qualifications that would meet the person specification and not just focus in on one type of qualification. We have been pleased with the response from different types of business and will continue to build on this.

We were delighted that during the year our Investors in People Silver award was reviewed and in December 2019 we were awarded Gold – a real tribute to our team of professional and helpful staff and our desire to provide a supportive and collaborative approach to all our work.

Finally, we would have to say that at the very end of the year we had to work quickly to ensure that we could move the whole organisation to work from home following Scottish Government guidance in relation to COVID-19. We can assure you that in doing this we continue to provide the level of service and support our stakeholders have come to expect. We also recognise and value the ongoing support we receive from them to ensure that the benefits of the SCQF are widely understood and used to best advantage and we would like to thank them for that support.



Rob Wallen

ROB WALLEN

Chair



Aileen M Ponton

AILEEN PONTON

Chief Executive

OUR VISION, MISSION & STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

19/22



Our Vision

To work with our partners and stakeholders to ensure the SCQF is seen both nationally and internationally as a symbol of quality and underpins the development of a robust education and skills system in Scotland that is fit for the 21st century.



Our Mission

To ensure that the quality and integrity of the SCQF is maintained at all times and that the benefits of using the Framework are fully promoted to all stakeholders across Scotland and beyond.

6 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2022:

MAINTAINING QUALITY & INTEGRITY

...by ensuring a robust quality assurance model is in place that provides comfort and mutual trust in Credit Rating Bodies and ultimately the Scottish education system.

SUPPORTING SCQF CREDIT RATING BODIES

...in building capacity and good practice in credit rating to enable them to plan and support a range of learner journeys.

PROMOTING RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

...to ensure no unnecessary repetition of learning and equality for all learners.

SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

...by encouraging employers to develop inclusive workforce recruitment and development approaches using the SCQF and its resources.

SUPPORTING THE LEARNER JOURNEY

...helping all those engaged with education to use the SCQF as a tool to develop individual learning journeys and recognise equality of qualifications.

SUPPORTING LEARNER MOBILITY INTERNATIONALLY

...by promoting the worldwide reputation of the SCQF and engaging with international recognition.

1st PHASE COMPLETED

of College Review pilot

SEVEN

Annual Monitoring
activities completed

WE SUPPORT ALL CRBs

That is all Scottish
colleges and
universities, SQA
and seven SCQFP
Approved CRBs



10

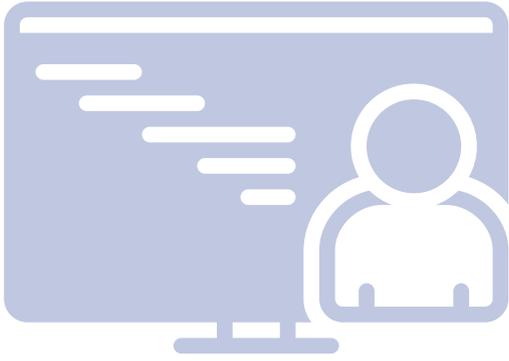
College Review
activities completed



QAM REVIEW STARTED

ONE

Sharing Good
Practice event held
for CRBs



11,500+

programmes owned by

303

organisations

22 DELEGATES

from 10 CRBs participated
in the Sharing Good Practice
event in March 2020

JOINT FUNDING

to support CRB to work with
YE Scotland to credit rate
programmes for young people

63 PARTICIPANTS

from 15 CRBs attended
workshops on credit rating

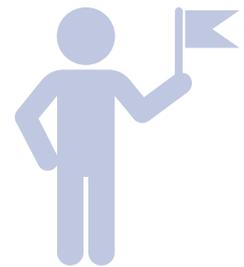


NINE

bespoke credit rating
workshops delivered

FOUR

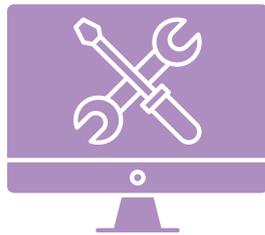
new College
Ambassadors



**DEVELOPMENT
& LAUNCH**

of new Learning Outcomes
& Assessment workshop at
request of sector

LAUNCHED THE NEW ONLINE RPL TOOL IN OCTOBER 2019



1,633

visitors to the RPL Tool
between Oct 2019 and
March 2020



34
DELEGATES

from 25 organisations
attended our 3 RPL
workshops

NHS



Education for Scotland

Worked with NHS
Education for
Scotland to roll out
national RPL project
for NHS staff



Development of
resource to recognise
skills of refugees/
asylum seekers &
benchmark these to
the SCQF



SCQF INCLUSIVE RECRUITER PROGRAMME

launched in April 2020

13 INCLUSIVE RECRUITERS

signed up & using SCQF levels
in recruitment

23 ORGANISATIONS

reached through
DYW presentations

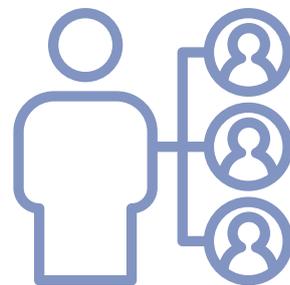
scdi Scottish Council
for Development
and Industry



GLASGOW
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COLLABORATION

with SCDI & Glasgow
Chamber of Commerce
to reach employers



23 EMPLOYERS

engaged through SCQF
workshops, presentations
and events

47



new SCQF School
Ambassadors

65 SA 
SCHOOLS

attended SCQF
SA Sharing Good
Practice event

100th

School Ambassador
announced as
Denny High School

MINISTERIAL LAUNCH
of the Veterans' Project

33

representatives from

28

member organisations
belong to the SCQF
Forum

18

delegates from

13

organisations attended
My Skills, My Future
workshops

63

attendees from

40

organisations took part
in Would You Credit It?
workshops



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



FIVE COUNTRIES

engaged with on
international projects,
including D'Ahoy, Polish
Database and Maltese NQF



European
Qualifications
Framework

EQF

RE-REFERENCING COMPLETED



NQF IMPACT REVIEW

completed for Malta

SIX

study visits hosted

SHOWCASED

how SCQFP works with learners,
employers & VE sector to
support recognition of skills
at the ETF Conference "Skills
& Qualifications - benefits for
people" to over 250 delegates
from 39 countries

SCQF WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE 

162,000
USERS

363,000
PAGE VIEWS

USE OF SCQF
ONLINE TOOLS
AND RESOURCES



96k
INTERACTIVE
FRAMEWORK

25k
SCQF
DATABASE

4k
FAQs

2.7k
RPL TOOL

SOCIAL
MEDIA



5,800
TWITTER FOLLOWERS
(10K+ INTERACTIONS)

2,700
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS



Coronavirus
disease (COVID-
19) outbreak

SCQF Partnership Takes the Gold

In December 2019 the SCQF Partnership team was awarded the Investors in People Standard at Gold level.

Based on 30 years of leading practice, the Investors in People Standard is underpinned by a rigorous assessment methodology and a framework which reflects the very latest workplace trends, essential skills and effective structures required to outperform in any industry.

Successful accreditation against the Standard is the sign of a great employer, an outperforming place to work and a clear commitment to sustained success.

IIP reps confirmed that the SCQFP's particular strengths lie within the key areas of Empowering and Involving People, Structuring Work, and Creating Sustainable Success.

Aileen Ponton, CEO, said: "I was delighted but not surprised that our organisation was recognised as

meeting the Gold standard. The whole team contributed to the review of our Investors in People credentials and worked hard to identify ways in which we could improve or enhance our professional service to stakeholders and each other. My thanks go to them for their continued commitment to the success of the SCQF."

Remote working due to COVID-19 crisis

Further to UK and Scottish Government guidance given on 16 March 2020 regarding the coronavirus outbreak, the decision was taken to close the SCQF Partnership offices and staff have been working from home until such time as this guidance is reviewed.

Work is ongoing to ensure that SCQF workshops will be available online. Moving forward this means that attendees from more remote parts of the UK will find it easier and more cost-effective to participate in SCQF sessions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Scottish Credit And Qualifications Framework Partnership Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year Ended 31 March 2020

(Including Income And Expenditure Account)

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	475,000	240,109	715,109	475,000	230,002	705,002
Charitable activities	25,633	32,593	58,226	19,492	39,667	59,159
Investments	1,642	–	1,642	1,472	–	1,472
Total Income	502,275	272,702	774,977	495,964	269,669	765,633
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	443,744	271,740	715,484	649,992	223,404	873,396
Total Expenditure	443,744	271,740	715,484	649,992	223,404	873,396
Net income/(expenditure)	58,531	962	59,493	(154,028)	46,265	(107,763)
Transfers between funds	13,812	(13,812)	–	28,415	(28,415)	–
Net movement in funds	72,343	(12,850)	59,493	(125,613)	17,850	(107,763)
Total Funds brought forward	289,717	17,850	307,567	415,330	–	415,330
Total Funds carried forward	362,060	5,000	367,060	289,717	17,850	307,567

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The information presented above is not the charity's statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the Statement of Financial Activities.

The statutory accounts have been externally scrutinised by Henderson Loggie who audited the statutory accounts and their report thereon contained an unqualified audit opinion.

The statutory accounts were formally approved by the Trustees of the charity on 25 June 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



We confirm that the above summarised financial information is consistent with the audited financial statements of the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework Partnership for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Henderson Loggie
Chartered Accountants
Registered Auditor

SCQF PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



SCQF PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE TEAM



www.scqf.org.uk

A REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY SC037958

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