

Quality assurance and Awarding 2021/2022

22 September 2021



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Purpose of session

- To confirm arrangements for awarding VTQs in 2021/2022
- To remind you of updates to our Quality Assurance processes for 2021/2022
- To remind you about the new process for registering and selecting units



Key messages

- Assessment and exams will go ahead in 2021/22
- Recognition that there has been disruption to teaching and learning and that this may continue
- Adaptations to assessments and qualifications permitted where necessary but all qualification content must be taught
- Category B qualification designation withdrawn from 1st September
- All results based on assessment evidence **not** on Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs)
- **All** qualifications now fall into category A and follow the Category A Principles

Principles for all qualifications

Principle 1 – As far as possible and without prejudice to the other principles, an awarding organisation must seek to ensure that the adaptations which it makes to a qualification assist with mitigating the impact on teaching, learning or assessments caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic for learners taking that qualification.

Principle 2 – An awarding organisation must seek to ensure that, where it makes any adaptations to its qualifications in accordance with the VCR conditions, the validity and reliability of those qualifications is maintained

Principles for all qualifications

Principle 3 – An awarding organisation must seek to maintain standards, as far as possible, within the same qualification in line with previous years, and across similar qualifications made available by the awarding organisation and by other awarding organisations.

Principle 4 – An awarding organisation must seek to ensure, that the adaptations which it makes to a qualification do not serve to advantage or disadvantage learners taking that qualification against their peers taking VTQs or where relevant general qualifications not covered by the VCR conditions.

Adaptations 2021/2022: our approach

- Continuing with the adaptations made for 2020/2021 to make more teaching and learning time available.
- Continuing to allow assessments to be delivered remotely or supervised remotely rather than face to face
- Adapting assessment methods to take account of any public health guidance, e.g. by using a practical simulation in place of an observation
- Flexibility in the way a qualification is quality assured, e.g. by allowing for standardisation activities e.g. EQA visit to take place remotely or on-line
- Revised guidance published on our website for all our qualifications

Adaptations guidance

Guidance for adaptations: [Centre guidance for adaptation to qualification delivery and assessment 2021-22](#)

Separate guidance for

- [ESOL Skills for Life](#)
- [EDSQ](#)
- [Short courses assessed through MCQs on the Surpass platform](#)

Qualification planning and delivery guidance

- Take advantage of the flexibilities the various qualifications offer
- Deliver groups of units together and assess holistically
- Select vocational units that include work that can contribute to English, maths, employability or digital units where this is appropriate
- Cluster units around a project

Holistic Learning Programmes

Quality Assurance: Getting ready for delivery 2021/22



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Reviewing our approach

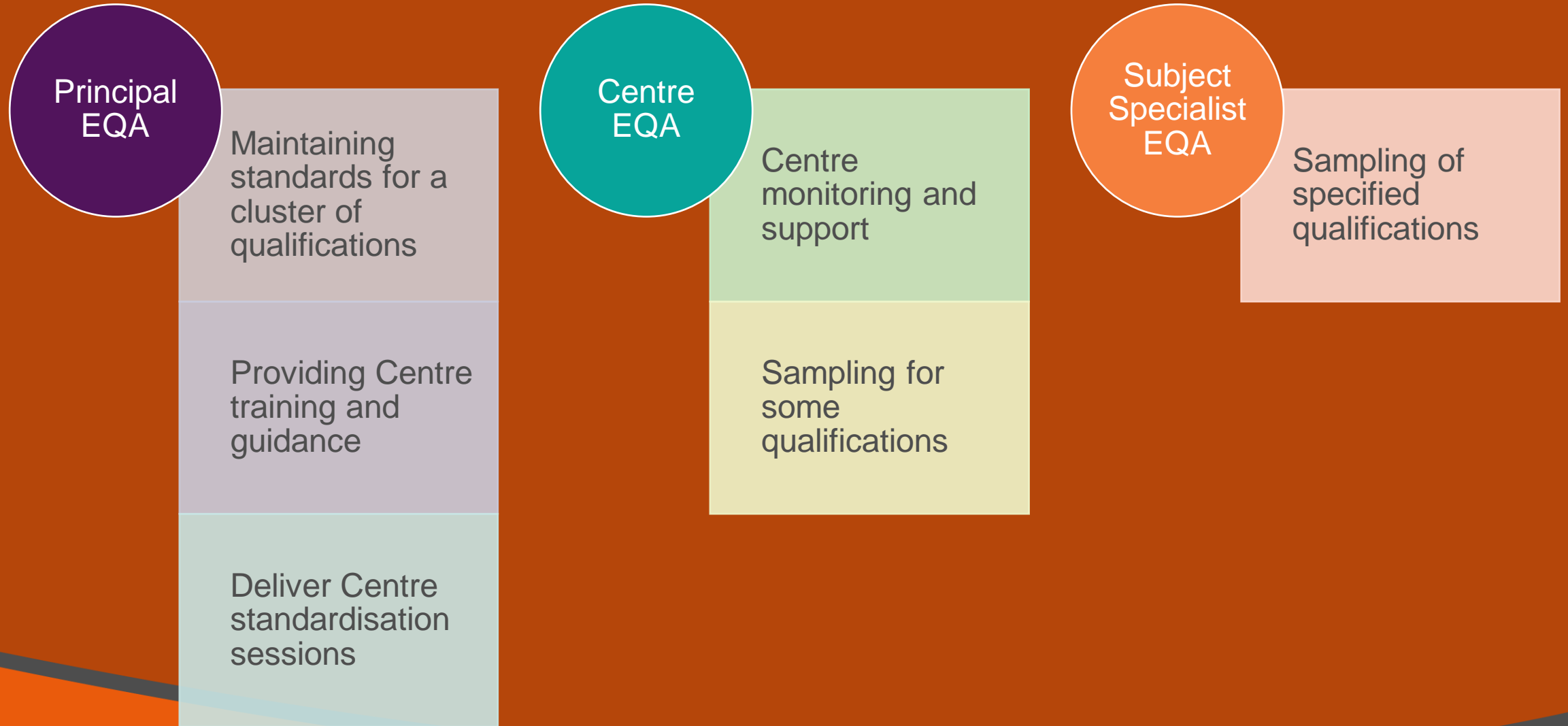
Why?

- Feedback from centres
- Expand out successes from EDSQ
- Regulatory changes (CASS)

Outcome of the review

- Review of the EQA roles
- Enhanced support to centres
- Revised approach to Centre monitoring

EQA team structure



EQA team structure

Principal EQA clusters

1. Science, Health, Public Services and Care (including childcare)
2. Engineering, construction, agriculture, horticulture and animal care
3. Digital
4. Leisure, travel and tourism, business admin and law, retail and commercial enterprise
5. Arts and media (including music technology, creative and design)
6. Education and training (professional development)
7. Foundation learning/preparation for life and work
8. ESOL
9. EDSQ, English and Maths

EQA team structure

Centre EQA

- Main Centre contact
- Compliance
- General queries
- Sampling

Subject Specialist EQA

- Providing specialist support
- Sampling

Summary

What's changed?

- We now have three EQA roles – Principal EQAs, Centre EQAs and Subject Specialist EQAs

What's the impact to Centres?

- As a Centre you will only have one Centre EQA but may have more Subject Specialist EQAs dependent on qualification offer. This builds on existing practice with specialist EQA roles for ESOL and EDSQ

What do Centres need to do?

- Your Centre EQA will be in touch with you to arrange the first monitoring activity

Monitoring activity

Centre monitoring –
Centre level

Sampling –
Qualification level

Monitoring reports

Split in two

One report for centre monitoring and one for qualification sampling

Revised
questions

You might notice that we have made some tweaks to the questions in our monitoring forms. This is to ensure that we are meeting all Ofqual regulations

Summary – monitoring activity

What's changed?

- We have split the monitoring activities and reports into two distinct activities:
 - Annual monitoring of overall centre arrangements
 - Monitoring of qualification standards

What's the impact on Centres?

- You will have a Centre EQA visit each year; you may then also have additional remote sampling

What do Centres need to do?

- Arrange a visit date with the Centre EQA when they contact you
- Complete the pre-visit questionnaire when it is sent to you
- Submit samples for remote sampling when requested

Direct claim status

Area	Criteria
Qualification eligibility	The qualification is eligible for DCS.
EQA Recommendation	The EQA has completed the qualification sampling recommends DCS is applied for qualification.
Time	One full cycle of the qualification with sampling.

Summary - DCS criteria

What's changed?

Clarification around sampling arrangements

What's the impact to Centres?

You will retain DCS status if you have it already and this will continue to be confirmed following sampling activity.

What do Centres need to do?

No action required at this time.

Enhanced support

- Guidance (webpages, guidance docs, quick start guides, videos)
- Qualification training and standardisation sessions
- Improved access to specialists
- Visits from a Centre EQA focused on support and key areas

Registering learners



Reasonable adjustments

- Are now added at the point of learner registration
- If learner requiring adjustment already registered, email Customer Excellence Team and ask them to update the learner record. registrations@gatewayqualifications.org.uk

Selecting units



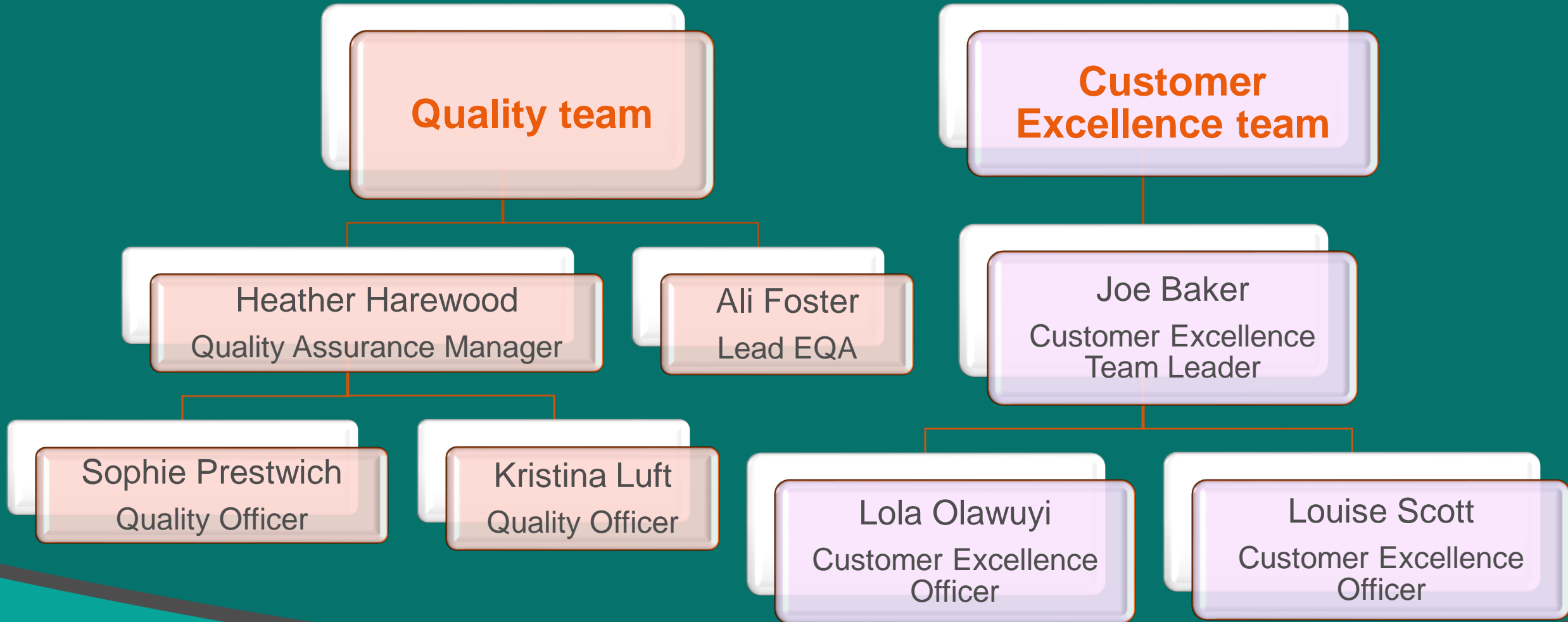
Centre agreement

A reminder that the Centre agreement 2021/22 is now available for you to accept the terms and conditions.

We suggest that you download the agreement and familiarise yourself with it.

Centre monitoring report is closely aligned to the Centre agreement.

Key contacts



Key contacts – Account Managers



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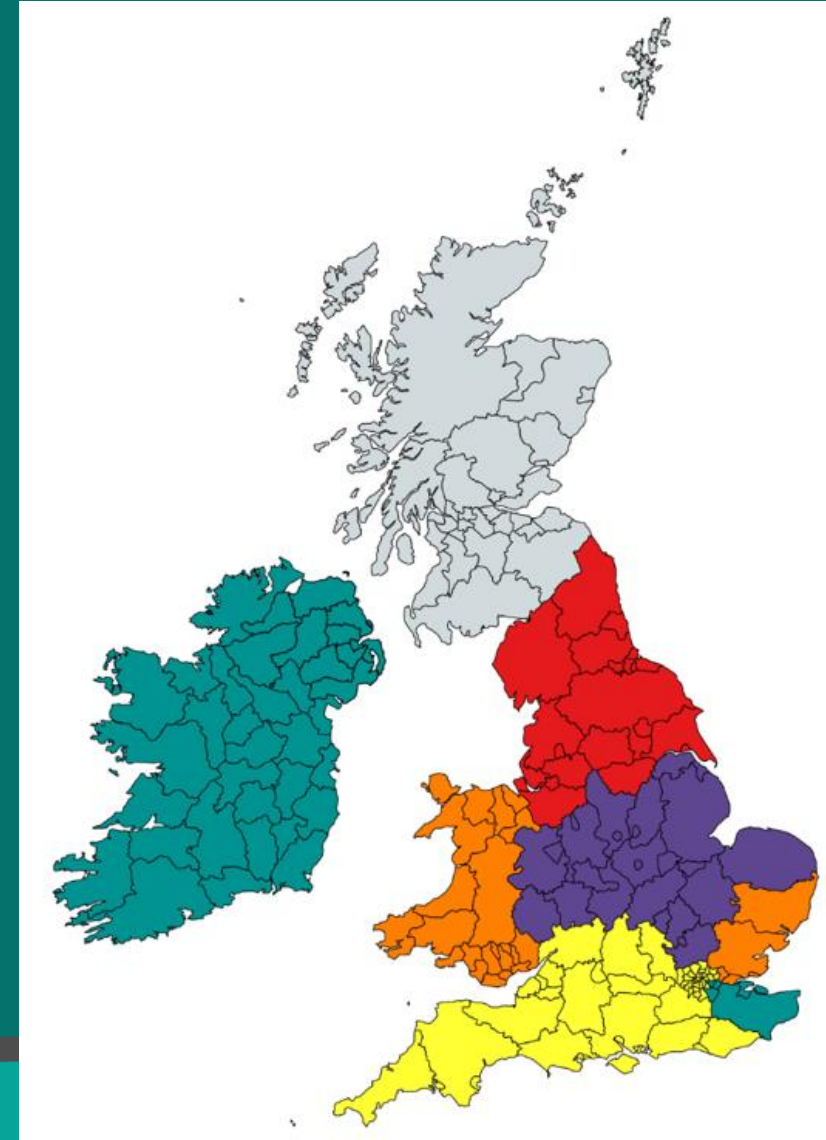
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Summary

- A dedicated Centre EQA for each Centre
- Additional Subject Specialist EQA/s depending on qualification offer
- Separate reports for centre monitoring and qualification sampling
- Units must be selected at the point of registration (but can be changed)

Any questions?



Contact information



<https://www.gatewayqualifications.org.uk/>



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