

Regulation to Publication on the Learning Aims Database

The Journey of Qualifications for use by Young People

This note describes the process and organisations involved in a regulated (accredited) qualification acquiring approval under Section 96 and funding information for use by young people under the age of 19 years old, and being published on the Learning Aims Database (LAD). It includes:

1. A high level process diagram of the qualification journey.
2. Contact details to obtain a status update on the qualification for use by learners under the age of 19 years old.
3. A visual aid providing step-by-step instructions on how to find the qualification using the contact details.

Audience

The audience for this note is all further education stakeholders interested in publicly funded qualifications for delivery to young people under the age of 19 years old, particularly providers and awarding organisations.

Provision in Scope

This note relates to the journey of qualifications seeking public funding for the use by young people up to the age of 19 years old. This note does not detail any of the process or contact details relating to qualifications and eligibility for public funding for adult learners, for this information please read the corresponding document from the Skills Funding Agency available from http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/News/20101019_lad_qualification_journey.htm.

In November 2010, ministers decided to remove the former Section 96 (Learning and Skills Act 2000) administrative criteria for the approval of vocational qualifications for use by students up to 19 years old and dissolve the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualification Approval (JACQA).

In place of the previous arrangements, the following interim arrangements have been established. These interim arrangements will be kept under regular review, and it is anticipated they will be replaced by new arrangements, in light of Professor Wolf's review which will report early in 2011.

1. No new vocational qualifications to be approved for use pre 16

Subject to the exceptions set out below*, no new vocational qualifications for use pre-16 will be approved before March 2011.

*Exceptions:

- Any newly accredited GCSEs and equivalent academic qualifications
- Pre-16 qualifications which are, in fact, existing (and approved) qualifications that have simply been reconfigured for the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)
- Entry level vocational qualifications.

2. New accredited vocational qualifications for use post 16 will in general be approved.

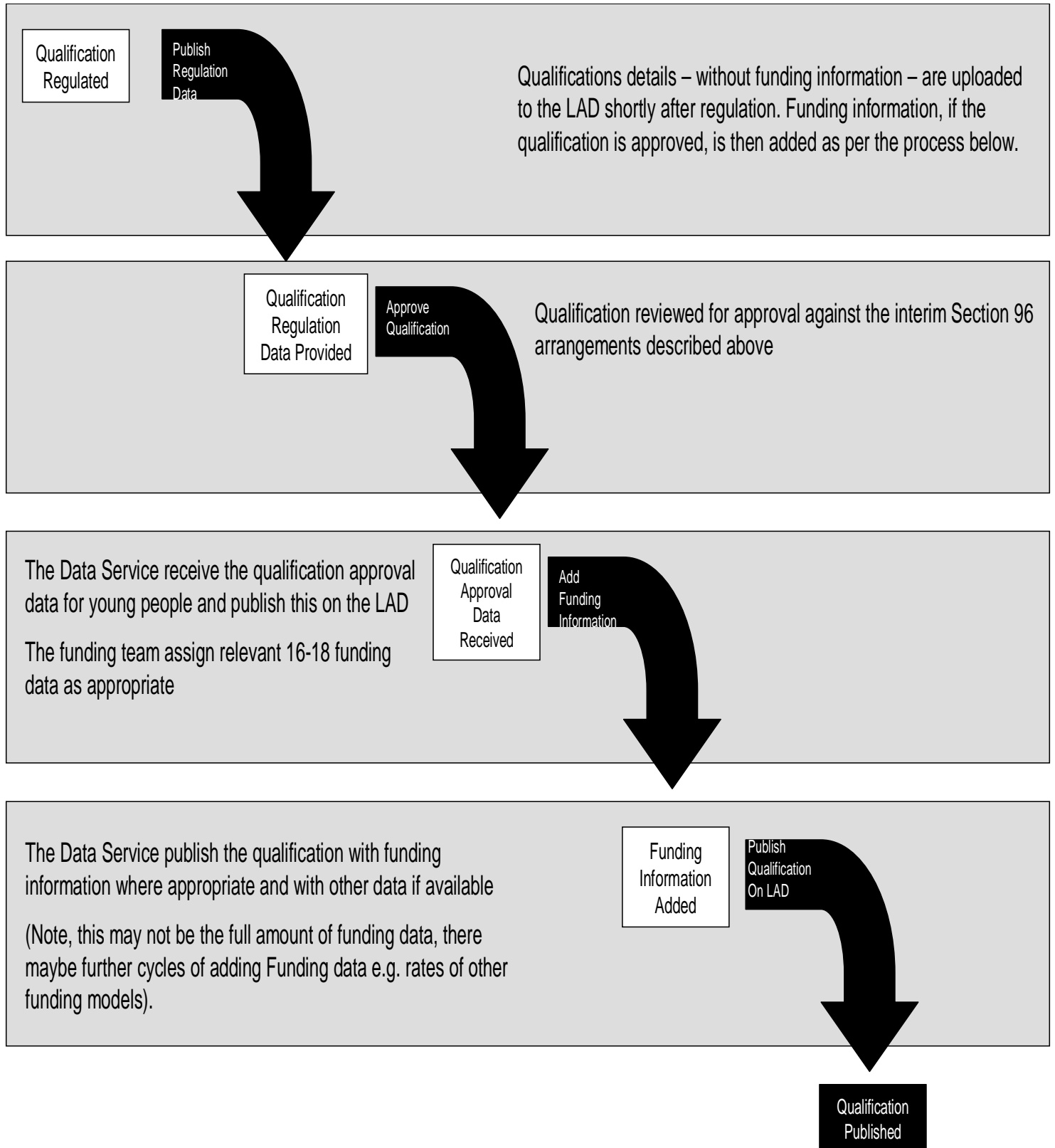
3. Only qualifications that meet high-quality standards shall be eligible for public funding. Accreditation by Ofqual (or a regulatory body recognised by them) will be expected to provide these assurances. Account will be taken of whether the qualification is suitable for the age group in terms of maturity, social well-being and health and safety requirements.

In all cases, the Secretary of State will retain the ability to approve or not to approve qualifications on an individual basis.

Further information can be found on the Section 96 website www.education.gov.uk/section96.

1. High Level Process

This is a high level representation of the journey of qualifications for use by young people.



2. Contact Details to Obtain a Status Update

This gives details of the first place to go to obtain information on the status of a qualification for use by young people at each step of the process. Responses to all queries will be provided in a timely manner.

□ **Step 1 Provide Regulation Data**

To check whether a qualification has been accredited use the following link:

[The Register of Regulated Qualifications](#)

If you have a specific query regarding Regulation please e-mail OfQUAL at:

info@ofqual.gov.uk

□ **Step 2 Publish Qualification on LAD**

To check whether the qualification has been published on the LAD, use the following link:

[Learning Aim Database: Aims Search](#)

If the qualification has been regulated but is not showing on the LAD at then please e-mail the Data Service Service Desk at:

servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk

If the qualification has been regulated and is showing on the LAD but without 16-18 funding values, please do not contact the Service Desk but proceed to Step 3:

□ **Step 3 Approve Qualification**

To check whether a qualification has been approved for use by young people and is listed on Section 96 use the following links:

[Section 96 Qualifications](#)

If you have a specific query regarding Section 96 approval please contact the Department for Education from:

section96.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk

□ **Step 4 Add Funding Information**

If the qualification in question is showing on the LAD has been approved (and is listed on the Section 96 database) but does not have 16-18 funding values on the LAD then please e-mail the Funding Team at:

cvhfundingqueries@ypla.gov.uk

For further guidance on Young Peoples Learning Agency funding policy use the following link:

[YPLA Funding Guidance](#)

3. A visual aid providing step-by-step instructions on how to find the qualification using the contact details.

The Qualification Journey: How to find the status of your qualification

