

## **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 53 OF QUALIFICATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

Under section 53 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, Qualifications Wales must have regard to such aspects of government policy as the Welsh Ministers may direct.

The Minister for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers, directs Qualifications Wales to have regard to:

- The Welsh Government policy that, as far as possible, learners who were due to complete assessments for vocational qualifications between 20 March and 31 July 2020 should be issued with calculated results for these qualifications.
- The Welsh Government policy that learners studying vocational qualifications should be treated fairly, receiving results that reflect the work they have put in and their cumulative attainment on their qualifications.
- The Welsh Government policy that, as far as possible, learners studying vocational qualifications should not be disadvantaged compared to their peers studying A levels and GCSEs, in being able to progress to the next stage of learning and/or employment. It is acknowledged that a “one size fits all” policy will not be appropriate and that approaches may need to be tailored for individual qualifications.
- The Welsh Government policy that, where it is not appropriate to determine an calculated result because a qualification signifies occupational competence including “license to practice”, a delay will be required so that the learner can complete their learning and assessment. In these cases health and safety should be the overriding consideration.
- The Welsh Government policy that a fair and robust approach to issuing results to learners studying vocational qualifications is adopted, which includes determining the approach awarding bodies and centres must follow in arriving at judgements of learners’ attainment and ensuring an avenue of recourse is available for those learners who do not believe that the process has been followed correctly in issuing their results.

For the purposes of this Direction, the Welsh Government policy described above applies to all learners studying vocational qualifications regulated by Qualifications Wales (other than vocational GCSEs and A levels, for which see the Direction issued on 6 April 2020) in schools, further education institutions, work-based learning providers and local authority adult learning.