

**To: All Post Primary Principals  
All Special School Principals**

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Dear Colleague,

## **VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS: ALTERNATIVE AWARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

I am writing to provide you with a brief update in respect of the ongoing work in relation to the alternative awarding arrangements for Vocational and Technical qualifications.

Vocational qualifications, whilst often delivered in schools, are the under the remit of the Department for the Economy (DfE). The Department of Education (DE) has been working closely with DfE to identify the best way forward for vocational learners in Northern Ireland under these extraordinary circumstances.

The Minister for the Economy announced on 23 April 2020 that it is her intention that vocational learners who need to receive results in the summer in order to progress onto their next steps, are enabled to do so, where possible. Since then, significant work has been taken forward by CCEA Regulation with the relevant awarding organisations (AOs) operating in Northern Ireland to ensure that arrangements are in place for awarding to reflect the Minister for the Economy's instruction.

As outlined in the recent letter to Heads of Centre from Sharon King, CCEA Regulation, AOs have commenced issuing instructions and guidance in order to collect the data on which awards can be made, and have been made aware of the 30 June as the end of term date in Northern Ireland for many centres. CCEA Regulation will monitor the awarding arrangements of AOs throughout June, July and August until issue of results, for those qualifications in scope under these exceptional awarding arrangements.

There are a number of helpful pieces of information available on the CCEA website and I would particularly draw your attention to the [new online interactive tool](#) which maps out a range of relevant Vocational and Technical Qualification information for learners and centres. This will be particularly helpful for learners taking different qualifications with different AOs.

CCEA Regulation has also collated a summary of submission dates for centre assessed grades which can be found [here](#). In addition, please continue to check your awarding organisations' websites for information as these can be updated regularly.

I hope this is useful and if you have any specific issues in respect of the alternative awarding arrangements for Vocational and Technical qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact CCEA Regulation directly at [ccearegulation@ccea.org.uk](mailto:ccearegulation@ccea.org.uk).

*Claire McClelland.*

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