

## Withdrawal of OCR Employment Related Services qualifications

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

OCR Level 3 Award in Employment Related Services (scheme code 09867)  
 OCR Level 3 Certificate in Employment Related Services (scheme code 09868)  
 OCR Level 3 Diploma in Employment Related Services (scheme code 09869)

#### 1. What is the last date I can register candidates?

The final registration date for these qualifications is 31/12/2013.

#### 2. What is the last date I can certificate candidates?

Scheme Code	Final Certification Date
09867	31/12/2016
09868	31/12/2016
09869	31/12/2016

Please note that the final certification date is the last date in which OCR will produce certificates and therefore it is advised that centres plan for completion of all candidate assessment at least 2 months prior to this date.

#### 3. I have DCS – how does this affect the last certification / assessment dates?

All candidate portfolios will still be subject to the full quality assurance process i.e. an External Verifier will need to visit your centre to review any DCS portfolios before these can be accepted. If you have already had your two free\* visits a year you will have to arrange a final visit to your centre by your EV – a fee will be charged for this. Your EV will notify OCR to remove DCS following this final visit.

\* This is subject to minimum candidate numbers. EQA visits for small centres with low candidate numbers may be chargeable.

#### 4. We are a centre in Wales / Northern Ireland – are we affected in the same way?

Yes. There is no difference.

#### 5. Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?

Due to falling market demand, OCR has reluctantly decided to withdraw this qualification suite.

**6. Does this mean OCR is withdrawing all qualifications in this vocational area / sector?**

OCR will be withdrawing the Employment Related Services qualifications. We will, however, continue to offer other related qualifications in this sector such as the following:

<b>Scheme Code</b>	<b>Title</b>
10184	OCR Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Advice and Guidance
10185	OCR Level 4 NVQ Diploma in Advice and Guidance

**7. Are all awarding organisations withdrawing these qualifications or is it just OCR?**

This is an OCR decision. Please check on the Register for Qualifications for alternative providers:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

**8. What if a candidate completes their portfolio, but we haven't made a qualification entry for that candidate and it is after the qualification last entry date?**

Candidates need to be registered before the last entry date and claims must be made before the final certification date (see Questions 1 and 2 above).

**9. What alternative OCR qualification(s) could I offer to my learners instead?**

OCR does not offer any direct replacement for the Employment Related Services qualifications. However, you may wish to look at the Advice and Guidance suite of qualifications which share units with the Employment Related suite.

**10. What are the changes in assessment between the alternative qualification/s and the qualifications being withdrawn and so what do I need to deliver differently?**

The Advice and Guidance qualifications follow a similar assessment and quality assurance model, ie candidates have to build portfolios of evidence which are assessed in the centre and externally quality assured by OCR external verifiers.

Full details of the assessment of these qualifications can be found in the Centre Handbooks on the website – link provided below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/vocational-qcf/health-and-social-care/>

**11. Where do I get information on this alternative qualification(s)?**

Information on the Advice and Guidance qualifications can be found on the OCR website – link provided below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/vocational-qcf/health-and-social-care/>

**12. If our learners have only achieved half of the qualification in complete units, can they transfer that achievement over to the alternative qualification?**

The Employment Related Services qualifications share some units with the Advice and Guidance qualifications. If candidates have achieved any units also available in the Advice and Guidance qualifications, these achievements will be transferred.

Details of the units available in the Advice and Guidance qualifications can be found in the Centre Handbooks on the website – link provided below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/vocational-qcf/health-and-social-care/>

For advice on the transfer of unit achievement you can talk to our Customer Contact Centre on 024 76 851509 or email [vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

**13. What is the approval process for these alternative qualifications – am I already approved or what do I need to do to get approval?**

OCR's Customer Contact Team will be able to check your approval status for the Advice and Guidance suite of qualifications. If you need to apply for approval you can get further details of the process to follow here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/i-want-to/do/become-an-approved-centre/>

**14. What employer / sector recognition do the alternative qualifications have and can you reassure me that these qualifications have the same equivalent 'currency' with the qualifications being withdrawn, i.e. will local employers recognise this as a qualification of the same quality?**

The Advice and Guidance qualifications are supported by the Sector Skills Council, Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS).

Further information on the aims and purpose of the qualifications can be found in the Centre Handbooks on the website – link provided below:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/vocational-qcf/health-and-social-care/>

**15. What is the difference in administration of the alternative qualifications to the qualifications being withdrawn? Who can help me understand how to make candidate entries for the alternative qualifications?**

The administration is very similar to the Employment Related Sector suite of qualifications, in that you will need to register and claim certification through Interchange.

OCR's Customer Contact Centre ([vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)) or the Customer Admin Support Team ([cast@ocr.org.uk](mailto:cast@ocr.org.uk)) will be able to assist you with any queries on administration.

**16. Will I still have the same external verifier for the alternative qualification(s)?**

Although some external verifiers will cover both sets of qualifications, we cannot confirm who your verifier will be until you have made entries and we allocate a verifier to your centre.

**17. Who can I talk to, to get more information on this?**

To learn more about the Advice and Guidance qualifications you can talk to our Customer Contact Centre on 024 76 851509 or email [vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk).

You may also want to contact your Regional Account Manager whose details can be found here:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/contact-us/regional-account-managers/>

**18. What alternative qualifications from other awarding organisations could I offer to my learners?**

There are a number of other awarding organisations offering the Employment Related Sector qualifications. For full details please view the Ofqual register:

<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>