

Vocational Qualifications (QCF, NVQ, NQF)

Policing

Level 3 Certificate Policing (Police Community Support Officer) – **03358**

Level 3 Diploma Policing – **03463**

Level 4 Certificate Police First Line Management – **04689**

Level 5 Certificate Police Management – **04690**

Level 3 Certificate Knowledge of Policing – **10333**

OCR Report to Centres September 2016

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It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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Policing Levels 3-5

1. Overview:

There has still been considerable and substantive change within all policing centres as forces look to reduce costs and whilst this has had an impact on the uptake of the qualifications over the past few years, there has been a noticeable and considerable increase since September 2015 in the numbers of student officers being recruited for all centres.

There were a large number of registrations between October 2015 and the last registration date of December 31st 2016 for the current suite of qualifications. All current active centres are recruiting at the moment and planning for considerable future recruitment in some cases, although these learners will not now be registered with OCR, due to the qualification suite no longer being offered.

The L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing has been still been used by some centres as a pre-join entry requirement although the take-up of this qualification has been drastically reduced over the last 12 months. The L3 Diploma and Certificate (PCSO –Police Community Support Officers) qualifications are used by police forces to accredit student officers and PCSOs prior to confirmation as police officers/PCSOs as part of the centre learning programmes. Centres also make good use of use APL, where learners have already achieved the PCSO qualification and then progress to becoming full-time regular police officers.

2. General Comment

The numbers of candidates on the L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing has considerably decreased and it is anticipated that there will very few, if any further accreditations for this qualification. This is partly due to changes in the recruitment process for the main force that required the qualification as a pre-join entry requirement. The introduction of a residency requirement for one force has had a considerable impact on the numbers taking this qualification and this has been evident in the reduced numbers of registrations over the past year.

There have been no major issues with the delivery by centres of the qualifications and any minor issues have been resolved satisfactorily by centres. Requests for support have been accommodated to ensure the quality and validity of the qualification.

Candidate numbers for the L3 PCSO have been steady although this has been used predominantly by one centre.

Candidate registrations for the L3 Diploma remained steady generally until October 2015 when the decision to no longer offer the suite of qualifications was announced and this resulted in a large increase in registrations prior to the last registration date as centres registered as many learners as possible. The qualification accredits candidates with the minimum requirements that demonstrate their competency as a police officer prior to a permanent appointment.

Candidate numbers for the L4 Certificate in Police First Line Management and L5 Certificate in Police Management have historically been low, although initially there was expected to be an increase in the registrations for these qualifications following the implementation of the National Police Promotion Framework (NPPF) which moved to a competency based assessment model in 2015, the withdrawal of the qualifications in October 2015 has meant that this did not happen.

3. Comments on Individual Units

All units in the L3 Certificate in Knowledge of Policing are mandatory and centres have not identified any units that have been problematic for candidates. Evidence presented by candidates for the L3 Certificate have included occupationally relevant scenarios, multiple choice questions, role play, written questions and essays.

All of the units in L3 Certificate in Policing (PCSO) and L3 Diploma in Policing are mandatory and centres have not generally had any issues with the units as they are directly related to the roles and tasks that all student officers/PCSOs undertake as part of their probationary training and assessment. Where queries have arisen, these have been swiftly resolved upon being contacted by centres to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged and can achieve the qualification prior to their appointment as police officers being confirmed.

All of the evidence for both the L3 PCSO and Diploma in Policing has been assessed in the workplace by experienced and trained or qualified assessors. The holistic use of evidence has been regularly seen in both these qualifications which supports centres and assessors in reducing the amount of evidence in portfolios. Clear evidence has been seen in all centres of internal quality assurance activity that strengthens the quality of provision and supports the development of new assessors.

The L4 Certificate in Police First Line Management consists of six mandatory units whilst the L5 Certificate in Police Management has five mandatory units with the remaining credits from optional units for both qualifications and centres have not identified any issues with the assessment requirements in the standards, although numbers undertaking the qualification have been small.

Evidence presented by candidates for all of the qualifications has included both electronic and paper portfolios with an increase in the use of electronic portfolios, either commercial products or in-house software, which all meets the awarding body and qualification requirements and is generally of a high standard.

4. Sector Update

Centres were advised in November 2015 that the qualifications would not be revised and therefore would not be offered after the last registration dates. As a result centres have looked for alternative providers for all new learners since January 2016.

Policing qualifications are also currently being reviewed with options such as achievement of a Policing degree being considered along with apprenticeships in Policing. In addition the Fast Track and Direct Entry programmes have been designed to open up entry to the service to ensure that it continues to meet the series of challenges that police forces must make to enable them to deliver savings whilst reducing crime in a time of increasing complex threats to national security, public safety and public order.

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