

Vocational Qualifications (QCF, NVQ, NQF)

Advice and Guidance

Advice and Guidance Level 3 (NVQ) Certificate – **10184**

Advice and Guidance Level 4 (NVQ) Diploma - **10185**

Advice and Guidance Level 3 - **05716**

Advice and Guidance Level 4 - **05717**

OCR Report to Centres 2013-2014

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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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1 The qualifications and standards

Assessment Team:

The assessment and IQA teams at the centres were generally sufficient to give good support to candidates.

There was only one instance of sanctions being applied due to unqualified assessors not being countersigned.

Resources:

The reports confirmed that very good resources are available for the candidates and the assessment team.

The move to digital recording of discussions is still increasing as this is a good way to collect evidence for these particular qualifications.

There has also been an increase in the number of centres moving to e-portfolios.

Candidate Support:

No areas of concern generally. Feedback from candidates has been very good, and candidates have commented on the development opportunities that doing the qualifications has given them.

EQAs have commented about poor assessment planning in a small number of cases. These have either been very brief plans or plans that are a few months apart.

Assessment and Verification:

Generally this has been very good with a suitable range of evidence being used. Observations, although not mandatory, are being used as often as possible. There is also good use of Professional Discussions, and Witness Testimonies.

The standard of IQA has been good and standardisation activities have been recorded.

Several IQAs have commented on the e-portfolios and how this gives them better access to check assessment and planning.

Management Systems and Records:

There have been few problems with the Management systems.

Most centres have good policies and procedures in place that operate well.

The centres that have moved to e-portfolios have often commented on the ease of record keeping.

Assessment Summary:

Overall the reports confirm that the vast majority of centres are operating well, have good systems and are producing quality portfolios.

There have been a small number of centres where sanctions have had to be imposed, but on the other hand a large number of centres have qualified for Direct Claims Status.

2 Sector Developments

The current standards are working well and are in fact just the QCF format of the previous NQF standards.

Because of the nature of the industry, dealing with clients mainly on a one to one basis, the methods and approaches do not change very much even though the problems that the clients need help with frequently do.

The number of candidates is being limited at present by the economy. Many potential candidates work with charities or in the public sector. Both areas are still badly affected by spending cuts.

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