

Withdrawal of OCR PROCOM suite

Following a review of our qualifications, and in light of changes in funding arrangements and Apprenticeship reform, we have decided to withdraw OCR PROCOM qualifications as of 31st December 2017.

The Procom suite of qualifications has a number of common units with a number of learning purposes. Some of these qualifications will be replaced by new apprenticeship standards; the withdrawal is giving sufficient notice to prepare centres to move over to the new standards from SASE frameworks. OCR will of course continue to support and assess the qualifications up to the final certification dates which will be as follows:

Scheme Code	Scheme Title	Qualification Number	Final Registration Date	Final Certification Date
04818	OCR Level 2 Award in ICT Systems and Principles for IT Professionals (PROCOM - Technical)	600/0785/0	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
04819	OCR Level 3 Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles for IT Professionals (PROCOM - Technical)	600/1317/5	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08730	OCR Level 2 Award in ICT Systems and Principles for Practitioners (PROCOM)	501/0858/X	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
04816	OCR Level 2 Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles for Practitioners (PROCOM)	600/1389/8	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08732	OCR Level 2 Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles for Practitioners (PROCOM)	501/0861/X	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08733	OCR Level 3 Award in ICT Systems and Principles for Professionals (PROCOM)	501/0860/8	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
04817	OCR Level 3 Certificate in ICT Systems and Principles for Professionals (PROCOM)	600/0778/3	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08735	OCR Level 3 Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles for Professionals (PROCOM)	501/0863/3	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08736	OCR Level 3 Extended Diploma in ICT Systems and Principles for Professionals (PROCOM)	501/0864/5	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
08737	OCR Level 2 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence (PROCOM)	501/0735/5	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
10262	OCR Level 3 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence (PROCOM)	501/1124/3	31/12/2017	31/12/2019
10351	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Professional Competence for IT and Telecoms Professionals	601/1690/0	31/12/2017	31/12/2019

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the last date I can enter learners?

The final date to enter learners for these qualifications is **31/12/2017**.

2. What is the last date I can certificate learners?

The final certification date for these qualifications is **31/12/2019**.

Please be aware that the last certification date is the final date OCR will produce certificates. Centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least two months prior to the last certification date.

3. Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?

PROCOM qualifications are being withdrawn because they will no longer contribute to apprenticeships once the relevant new apprenticeship standards are fully implemented. Other OCR vocational qualifications may be similarly affected in the future by the implementation of new apprenticeship standards for other sectors.

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

Although OCR is withdrawing PROCOM qualifications we will continue to offer a range of Vocational qualifications in this sector including Cambridge Technicals IT and the new Digital apprenticeship trailblazers.

<http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-subject/ict/>

5. What are the alternative OCR qualifications could I offer to my learners instead?

Cambridge Technicals IT (Levels 2 and 3)

05340 05342 05345	Cambridge Technical IT Level 2 Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma (2012 suite)*	Link
05347 05349 05352 05355 05358	Cambridge Technical IT Level 3 Certificate/Introductory Diploma/Diploma/Subsidiary Diploma/Extended Diploma (2012 suite)*	Link
TBC	Cambridge Technical IT Level 2 Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma (First teaching September 2017)	Link
05838- 05842	Cambridge Technical IT Level 3 Certificate/Extended Certificate/Introductory Diploma/Foundation Diploma/Diploma (2016 suite)	Link

*Included in SASE apprenticeship

The 2012 Cambridge Technical suite is being replaced at Level 3 by the 2016 suite for first teaching September 2016 and the Level 2 for first teaching September 2017. The 2012 versions will be available for a limited time once the 2016 suite is available and the withdrawal of the SASE framework confirmed.

Digital Industries Trailblazer components (Level 4)

New Apprenticeships launched in 2016, as part of new occupational standards in Network Engineer and Software Developer.

10411	Network Engineer	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Network Principles	Link
10409	Software Developer	OCR Level 4 Diploma in Software Development Methodologies	Link

Details on further components of the Digital Industries trailblazer will be made available once confirmed.

6. Are all Awarding Organisations withdrawing these qualifications or is it just OCR?

This is an OCR decision. For details of other awarding organisations offering these qualifications, please view the Ofqual register on the following link:

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

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

Yes, these qualifications are approved to be offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The end dates will be the same for all three nations.

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

Learners must be entered via OCR Interchange before the last entry date of 31/12/2017. Unnamed entries are available (with the exception of the competence diplomas). If the last entry date has passed please [contact us](#).

9. I want to enter learners now but don't know exactly how many I will have. If I enter them through the unnamed option and can't use them up by the last assessment date what happens with my unused entries?

We advise that you carefully plan any purchases of unnamed entries in line with the last assessment dates as they are not refundable. For both unnamed and named routes, entries can be made until 31/12/2017.

10. What will happen if a learner has a unit withdrawn and wants to claim the unit at a later date?

Named entry - If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date, providing that the full qualification has not already been achieved.

Unnamed entry - If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date. To do this, you will need to submit the claim using another unnamed entry.

11. Competence qualifications only: I have Direct Claims Status (DCS) – how does this affect the last certification / assessment dates?

Direct Claims Status (DCS) is removed three months prior to last certification date. For PROCOM competence qualifications this will be removed on **30/09/2019** or at the final EQA visit (whichever is earlier) as all learner portfolios will still be subject to the full quality assurance process.

12. Competence qualifications only: What do we need to consider as the last certification date approaches?

The last certification date for all PROCOM qualifications is **31/12/2019**. This is the last date we will produce certificates and we suggest you plan to complete all candidate assessment at least two months before this. Please ensure your candidates have completed all portfolios of work in order to meet the assessment criteria.

To make sure you're prepared you may like to consider these key points:

- Remember to make your certification claims at least 3 weeks before the last certification date. As part of the quality assurance process, ensure all your claims are part of a sample seen by our external quality assurer (EQA).
- Ensure all your EQA visits take place at least two weeks before the last certification date to allow certificates to be processed.
- If you have any issues arranging visits, or contacting your EQA directly, please contact our allocation team: opsalloc@ocr.org.uk.

13. Who can I talk to, to get more information on alternative OCR qualifications?

To learn more about the options available to you please talk to our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509** or email 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/>