

Consultation on Economic Regulation and the Fee-capping Process

Consultation Questions



October 2010

Questions

A.i. Do you agree with the definition of value for money, as set out in section 4.2 and summarised in Box 3, that we are proposing to apply in undertaking our regulatory functions?

Yes	No (Please explain below)	Don't know	Other (Please explain below)
		x	

A.ii. If you answered 'no' or 'other' please explain why and provide any suggestions you have for how we may improve the definition.

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B.i. Do you agree with our approach to securing efficiency, as set out in section 4.3, which is built on the idea of promoting efficiency at the awarding organisation level, encouraging efficiency at the system level and remedying inefficiency where we find this occurs?

Yes	No (Please explain below)	Don't know	Other (Please explain below)
	x		

B.ii. If you answered 'no' or 'other' please explain why and provide any suggestions you have for how we could improve our approach.

The total spend on examination fees by schools has risen in recent years. One driver of this is the performance table measure of five GCSEs at grades A* to C including Mathematics and English. This results in some schools entering students for more than one GCSE qualification in Mathematics in the hope that they will gain grade C in at least one of them. Not only is this inefficient, but it also places unnecessary burdens on students and teachers and tends to reduce confidence in the qualification system and enjoyment of mathematics.

C.i. Do you agree that we should place the economic regulation recognition criteria and conditions, summarised in Table 1 and set out in full in Annex B, on awarding organisations?

Yes	No (Please explain below)	Don't know	Other (Please explain below)
		x	

C.ii. If you answered 'no' or 'other' please explain why.

D.i. Do you think stock-take exercises, as set out in section 6.3, will be useful in helping us to encourage the efficiency of the qualifications system?

Yes	No	Don't know	Other
		x	

D.ii. Do you think innovation is a suitable area for a stock take?

Yes	No	Don't know	Other
		x	

D.iii. Do you have any comments on our proposed scope as set out in section 6.3.2 ?

We welcome the move to encourage innovation and reflection on past innovations.

D.iv. Would you be willing to participate in the stock take?

Yes	No	Don't know	Other
	x		

E.i. Do you agree that the indicators of inefficiency, as set out in Tables 2 and 3, are suitable for helping us to identify where there may be a risk of inefficiency in the qualifications sector?

Yes	No	Don't know	Other
		x	

E.ii. If not, please explain why and provide any suggestions you have for how we could improve the indicators.

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F. Do you have any comments on our proposed fee-capping process, as set out in Annex A?

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G. Do you have any other comments on our consultation?

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