

**Executive Summary and Recommendations  
Education and Training Committee  
(14 June 2005)**

**Amendment to NVQ website details for ODPs**

**Introduction**

At the Education and Training Committee meeting held on 13 October 2004, approval of the past qualification: “*The Scottish or National Vocational Qualification in Operating Department Practice, Level 3(effective 1991-2000)~there will be students exiting this programme until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004*” for Operating Department Practitioners, was granted. Recently however, it has come to the attention of the Education and Policy department that the detail of the qualification and the information currently held on the HPC website is insufficient.

Being a vocational qualification, the NVQ Level 3 qualification is an outcome based qualification. This effectively means that there is no clear course duration determined by the awarding bodies (Edexcel, City and Guilds and SQA). To address this situation for ODPs, the Association of Operating Department Practitioners (AODP) published a paper entitled “Registration and Validation of ODP Programmes”. This paper (Appendix 1) was designed to clarify arrangements for a transitional period during which the main qualification for ODPs moved from the NVQ Level 3 qualification to the Diploma of Higher Education in Operating Department Practice. The main points of the paper determined that the duration of the NVQ Level 3 for ODPs be set at 2 years and that the programme must be commenced prior to 31 October 2002.

The paper was distributed to NVQ awarding bodies, including Edexcel, City and Guilds and SQA, who were requested to henceforth advise all approved centres (NVQ education providers) and registrants, that commencement of the programme after 31 October 2002 would not lead to registration with either the AODP, or with the subsequent statutory regulator. Edexcel subsequently issued a joint Position Statement from the awarding bodies informing approved centres of the requirements of the AODP (Appendix 2).

At the time of transfer of the AODP voluntary register to the HPC, the NVQ Level 3 programme for ODPs, had clear parameters. While the HPC approved the qualification itself, it did not approve the individual education providers and thus the length of the programme. Consequently, the information as it currently stands, in addition to being incorrect with regard to dates of availability, may allow individuals who have completed an insufficient programme to enter the HPC register.

**Decision**

**The Committee is asked to agree that:**

In accordance with the AODP policy at the time of register transfer, the information regarding the NVQ Level 3 qualification for ODP’s on the HPC website be amended to read:

*“The Scottish or National Vocational Qualification in Operating Department Practice, Level 3”*

*Note: This is generally a two year programme with the final student intake being 31 October 2002. The majority of students will complete the course in October 2004, however, students granted an extension by the education provider may complete after this date. Evidence of approved extension, by the education provider, is required for registration purposes.*

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

None

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – AODP paper on *Registration and Validation of ODP programmes*

Appendix 2 – Joint Position Statement from Edexcel to all approved centres



ERROR: undefinedfilename  
OFFENDING COMMAND: c

STACK: