



Extraordinary Regulatory Framework: Calculated grades, agreement process

Joint agreement

The individual mitigation for each qualification were agreed jointly by the product development and external quality assurance teams at AIM.

Registrations on any programme which were identified as being 'on programme' during the ERF dates were deemed eligible for the mitigation to be applied.

Centres were contacted by email and informed of the eligible registrations and applicable mitigation. Any centre wishing to apply mitigations were then required to submit an evidence checklist and submit their claims. This outlined the scenario for each cohort and identified what evidence was available for the quality assurance team to use when establishing the final award. Each checklist was reviewed by a panel at AIM.

The panel looked at:

- the claim being requested,
- the evidence available
- progression of learners through the course
- centre and qualification claim history
- compliance adherence
- registration and claim pattern
- risk management plan for the department/centre
- risk management of the qualification itself and agreed an outcome.

The outcomes of the panel were:

1. **Agreed:** An external verifier (EV) would contact the centre and arrange for a sample of available evidence (as per the checklist) to be made available.
2. **Refused:** An external verification manager would contact the centre to confirm that the claim would not go ahead in its current state and to discuss whether there was any additional information available to enable the claim to go ahead.

Every mitigated claim was subject to external verification feedback.

Ungraded/examined qualifications

For qualifications which were not graded and there was no exam, the external verifier reviewed:

- the completed learner evidence
- IQA records
- risk management of the programme
- the centre assessed grade for the incomplete evidence and accompanying justification.

Where a centre usually has direct claims status, this was used to confirm the completed learner evidence. The incomplete (calculated grade) components were reviewed by the EV.



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Using this information, EVs were able to make a judgement as to whether they believed the learners would have progressed as planned had COVID-19 closures not happened.

The process and outcomes were registered in an EV report.

Graded and/or examined assessment qualifications

For qualifications which were graded and/or were subject to an examined assessment which was being calculated, there was additional reviews of how the centre had come to their grading decisions.

Centres were asked to provide an explanation and evidence of their grading decisions and identify any anomalies compared to benchmark data or norm claim data for their own centre.

The sample requested by the EV team covered a range of grading decisions and profiles.

The EV team reviewed the qualification claim data against the centre data and the learner evidence available and reported on this in their reports.

After the EV team have completed their report and sampling, the claim was reviewed by a further panel. This was confirmed that the claim was typical for the centre and/or qualification suite.

At the point of registration, centres informed AIM of the planned qualification end date and this was used to monitor the planned claims.

The panel checked the centre's risk management status and the feedback given to the centre in the report and agreed or disagreed the claims.

Where a qualification was graded or had an examined assessment, each claim was compared to the qualification benchmark data and historic data to confirm validity and authenticity. Where there were significant differences to the expected claim (both increase and decreased), these were investigated further and the EV team asked for further input, on occasions, the centre were also contacted to ask for further information to support this.

Any grade changes used the ranking of the learners and this identified which learners were selected to move up or down a grade.