

**Glenys Stacey**  
Chief Regulator

22 January 2015

Ms Anne Jones AM  
Chair  
Children, Young Persons and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

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Dear Ms Jones

## **Consultation – Qualification Wales Bill**

Thank you for the invitation to provide evidence on the Qualifications Wales Bill to the Children, Young People and Education Committee. We are pleased to note the good progress being made in establishing Qualifications Wales as the qualifications regulator in Wales. Qualifications Wales should be able to play an important role in promoting an effective qualifications system in Wales.

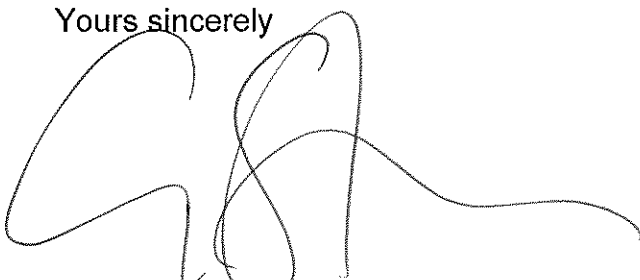
Ofqual is the independent regulator responsible for regulating qualifications that are awarded in England and (for vocational qualifications) in Northern Ireland. Our responsibilities therefore broadly parallel those proposed for Qualifications Wales. We understand and respect the devolution settlement, and the right of Welsh Ministers to choose which qualifications should be available in Wales and what the regulatory arrangements should be.

There will be real benefits to learners, employers and others across Wales, Northern Ireland and England if qualifications are portable across borders, though the different policy objectives of Ministers in different parts of the UK need to be respected. We will work with Qualifications Wales, as a fellow regulator, to support that as far as possible.

We have been discussing with officials in the Welsh Government the implications of the Bill for the qualifications that Ofqual regulates and how we work with Qualifications Wales. While there are some points of detail still to be resolved so that this can happen effectively, we are confident that these issues can be sorted out, and we will work constructively with the Welsh Government and others to help make that happen.

I am copying this letter to Graham Stuart MP, the Chair of the Education Select Committee of the UK Parliament, to which we are accountable.

Yours sincerely



**Glenys Stacey**  
Chief Regulator