

Isabel Nisbet
Director Regulation & Standards
Qualifications & Curriculum Authority
83 Piccadilly
London
W1J 8QA

One90 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7BH

Tel: 0870 240 9800
Fax: 020 7404 0520
Minicom: 0870 240 3941
www.edexcel.org.uk

Thursday, 14 February 2008

Efficiency of the Qualifications System - Europe Economics' Report on Scoping Exercise (the "Report")

Dear Isabel,

Thank you for your letter of the 29th of January 2008 enclosing an updated version of the Report.

We have reviewed the original Report against the updated version supplied. We are surprised that only very minimal changes have been made to the Report since your receipt of our last letter on the subject, dated 28th November, 2007.

Edexcel remains supportive of the core original objective of the study and we welcome the very important recognition in the updated Report that price is not the primary basis of competition (Para. 7.27). However, our main concerns about the Report remain, namely:

1. The scoping exercise undertaken does not reflect the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1
2. There is no customer research cited to support any of the arguments made
3. The report compares the powers of the QCA with three regulators whose sectors are wholly different in nature to the education market and seeks to draw conclusions from that review as to the suitability of QCA's powers

We are therefore still of the view that the Report does not provide a proper basis for taking forward this important issue. In addition, there is now a consultation being jointly undertaken by DIUS and DCSF on the regulatory functions of QCA, '*Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment*'. The Report makes no reference to this activity and should be updated to reflect the fact that such structural changes in the regulatory environment are contemplated.

Finally I confirm that we are content for our original letter of the 28th November 2007 to stand un-amended for publication and for this letter to stand alongside it for the public record.

Yours sincerely,



Jerry Jarvis
Managing Director