

Quick Help Guide

Guidance on the QCF for Policing and Law Enforcement



SKILLS  **JUSTICE**

Developing skills for safer communities

What's happening?

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is the framework for creating and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

QCF implementation in Northern Ireland is overseen by the NI Vocational Qualifications Reform Programme (VQRP) Board.

In Wales, the QCF sits within the overarching Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

There is a separate framework for Scotland, called the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). For further details visit www.scqf.org.uk.

The framework has been developed to ensure qualifications are simple to understand and use, are accessible to a wide range of learners and are relevant to employers' needs.

What does this mean for Policing and Law Enforcement?

By 31 December 2010 Skills for Justice will have transferred all Policing and Law Enforcement qualifications onto the QCF because the previous framework – the National Qualifications Framework – will cease to exist. We will be developing a QCF unit for each of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) in qualifications. Therefore the old National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) which were made up of NOS will be replaced by QCF qualifications made up of QCF units.

All new Policing and Law Enforcement qualifications will automatically be QCF-based qualifications.

What is the QCF?

The QCF is the name of the new framework in which qualifications will sit. It is also used as shorthand for the qualifications and the units themselves, so you will hear and see references to both QCF units and QCF qualifications.

What is a QCF unit?

One or more QCF units make up a QCF qualification. QCF units are made up of learning outcomes and assessment criteria, as illustrated below.

- **Learning outcomes** describe what a learner is required to know, understand, or is able to do. In other words the learning outcomes are what the learner will achieve as a result of doing the job that the unit describes
- **Assessment Criteria** are statements that specify the standard a learner must meet to show the learning outcome has been achieved.

Title:	Provide an initial response to incidents
Level:	2
Credit Value:	3
Learning Outcomes The learner will:	Assessment Criteria The learner can:
1. Know and understand relevant legal and organisational requirements for responding to an incident	1.1 identify the legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and/or guidelines that relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equality, diversity, human rights• health and safety (self and others)• working with vulnerable groups• using personal safety techniques (including force) 1.2 explain the reasons why it is important to provide an initial response to incidents in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements
	1.3 identify procedures for initial response to different types of incident
2. Be able to gather information and plan a response to an incident	2.1 establish the nature of incidents based on an assessment of available information
	2.2 obtain any necessary additional information which will support response to the incident
	2.3 identify options for actions in response to the nature of the incident.

There must be evidence that the learner can achieve all the **Assessment Criteria** for a Learning Outcome, however one piece of evidence could cover **several** Assessment Criteria. This approach encourages a more 'Holistic Assessment' practice.

For further details relating to the assessment of competence based qualifications in the QCF for Policing, please refer to the Assessment Strategy which can be found on our website www.skillsforjustice.com/PLEsupport.

Learners can collect 'credits' as they complete individual QCF units at their own pace, and use them to gain relevant qualifications. You can bank all your achievements and keep them as you move from education into a job or from one job to another. You do not have to re-evidence units that you have already achieved. In the QCF, everything learned is valuable.

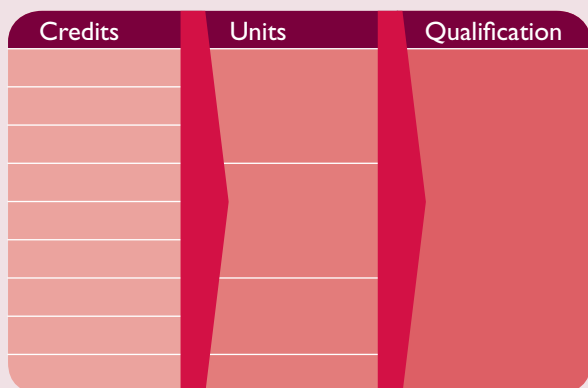
There may be time and 'currency' restrictions on how long you have to complete specific Policing and Law Enforcement qualifications. The Awarding Body will be able to provide further information about this.

How does it work?

Every unit and qualification in the QCF has a credit value that tells you how many hours it would take a learner to complete a unit. **10 hours of learning time equals 1 credit.**

Each unit and qualification also has its own level, between Entry Level and Level 8, to show how difficult it is.

The structure of a QCF qualification



In the QCF, learners accumulate credit in small steps by completing units, which can then build up into a full qualification.

Each qualification title contains the following

- the level of the qualification (from Entry Level at the bottom to Level 8 at the top)
- the size of qualification (Award/Certificate/Diploma)
- details indicating the content of the qualification.

Examples of QCF qualifications for Policing and Law Enforcement

- Award in Working with Vulnerable Young People Level 3
- Certificate in Police First Line Management Level 4
- Certificate in Police Management Level 5
- Diploma in Policing.

These are available on our NOS Finder tool at www.skillsforjustice-nosfinder.com.

The three sizes of qualifications available are

- Award (1-12 credits)
- Certificate (13-36 credits)
- Diploma (37 credits or more).

The category is dependant upon the number of credits within the qualification, as illustrated below:

CHALLENGE	8			
	7			
	6			
	5		L5 Certificate in Police Management	L5 Diploma in Probation Practice
	4		L4 Certificate in Police First Line Management	
	3		L3 Certificate in Strategic Problem Solving in Community Safety	L3 Diploma in Probation Practice
	2			
	1			
	Entry levels			
		Award (1-12 credits)	Certificate (13-36 credits)	Diploma (37 credits or more)
	SIZE			

Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades A – C, Level 3 is equivalent to A Level study, Level 6 is undergraduate degree level and Level 8 is Doctorate level study.

What are the benefits of the QCF?

For the learner

- The assessment process is designed to be as straightforward as possible to reduce bureaucracy (as recommended in the Flanagan Report)
- It will help learners evidence the skills and knowledge that meet the needs of the Policing and Law Enforcement sector; contributing to their continued professional development
- It will enable work-based training to be nationally recognised, giving the learners transferable skills
- It recognises small units of learning and enables learners to build up qualifications step by step
- Learners can avoid duplicating the learning and assessment they have already done by transferring credits within the framework and/or by having recognition of prior learning.

For the employer

- There is greater flexibility in assessment of candidates as they can use evidence from a training environment as well as work based assessment
- They will have more input into the content of qualifications at the development phase, to ensure that QCF qualifications accredit the skills and knowledge required by them
- They will have a more appropriately skilled workforce with fit for purpose skills and knowledge
- They can shape their training around their business needs using relevant QCF units
- Qualifications will be easier to understand in the framework - they will have straightforward titles that state how long each qualification will take to complete, its difficulty level and subject matter
- QCF units can focus on skills only or knowledge only or a mix of both, providing flexibility of accreditation
- QCF knowledge-based units can be written up to Doctorate level and therefore form the assessment of HE or FE taught programmes, whilst competency-based units can be assessed in a workplace, providing flexibility of training and accreditation options.

Further details

In the production of this leaflet we have used source material from the QCDA document 'A learner's guide to the QCF'.

There are a range of further useful resources on the QCF at www.qcda.gov.uk/qcf, including the documents below, guidance for awarding bodies and HE Institutions, and a Glossary of Terms.

QCF introduction

This general introductory leaflet provides an overview of how the QCF works and its key benefits.

A learner's guide to the QCF

This introductory leaflet provides an overview of how the QCF works and its key benefits for learners.

QCF introduction for employers

This introductory leaflet provides an overview of how the QCF works and its key benefits for employers.

Ofqual website

This website has further information on the qualifications in the QCF www.ofqual.gov.uk/qualification-and-assessment-framework.

For further information
please contact us at
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www.skillsforjustice.com

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