



Department
for Education

Qualifications Reform Update

Edition 1 2025



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2025.

START PLANNING YOUR REFORMED PATHWAYS TODAY – we have created some progression pathway illustrations using our newly reformed qualifications in Digital; Health and Science; Education and Early Years; Construction and the Built Environment.

READ the new 'Guide to the future landscape' which provides an update on post-16 qualifications reform at level 3 and information on the next phase of reforms.

STAY INFORMED by signing up to our mailing list here.

WATCH a recording of a webinar about the Outcomes of the Review of Qualifications reform.

VISIT our provider webpages.

REPLY to this email to make suggestions about what you would like to see in future newsletters.

CONTACT US via our email by clicking on the link.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Our **FAQ document** includes questions and answers about the Review of Qualifications Reform, level 3 and level 2 and below qualifications.

One of the questions we have been asked about is funding for qualifications in subjects outside the scope of the review including **Travel and Tourism, E-Sports, Games Design, Criminology, and Uniformed Public Services**, amongst others.

The subjects in scope of the review were **Legal, Finance and Accounting; Business and Administration; Health and Science (incl. Social Care); Education and Early Years; Engineering and Manufacturing; Construction and the Built Environment; Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care; Digital, and Creative and Design**.

Level 3 qualifications in **subjects not in scope of the review will continue to be funded as before**. No decisions have been made currently to defund these qualifications. Reforms in the other routes and subjects at level 3 will not proceed until the findings of the Curriculum and Assessment Review have been published.

RECAP– 2024 was a busy year in which we shared the following:

May 2024: We announced 74 newly reformed level 3 qualifications available for first teach in August 2025.

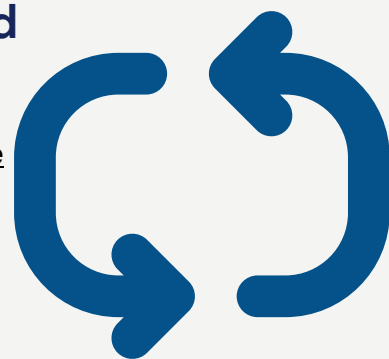
July 2024: We paused the removal of funding from level 3 qualifications, which was initially set for 31 July 2024.

July 2024: We announced a review of qualifications reform.

September 2024: We announced 66 newly reformed level 2 qualifications available for first teach in August 2025.

December 2024: We shared the Outcomes of the Review of Qualifications Reform.

- **Funding:** Continued funding for 157 qualifications until 31 July 2025.
- **No and low enrolments:** The review identified over 200 qualifications with fewer than 100 enrolments in the past three years. Funding for these will be removed in 2025.
- **Clarity and Future Planning:** Provides clarity for education providers, learners, and families up to 2027. Future reforms will consider the recommendations of the Curriculum and Assessment Review.
- **Rules of Combination:** The government will not proceed with proposed rules of combination meaning providers can determine the best mix of qualifications for each individual.
- **Commitment to T Levels:** Reaffirmed commitment to T Levels as the qualification of choice for 16 to 19 year olds looking to study a large qualification in a T Level area.



NEWLY REFORMED QUALIFICATIONS

Last year we announced newly reformed qualifications, available for teaching for the first time on 1 August 2025.

Overview of new qualifications

A total of 140 new alternative academic and technical qualifications have been approved for funding from 2025. This includes:

- **74 new qualifications at level 3** in construction and the built environment, digital, education & early years, engineering and manufacturing and health and science.
- **66 new qualifications at level 2** in construction and built environment, education and early years, engineering and manufacturing and health and science.

These qualifications meet our rigorous approval criteria, ensuring their high quality.

IMPACT ON THE SKILLS SYSTEM

These qualifications will play a key role in strengthening our skills system, creating opportunities, and driving the economic growth our country needs. They provide clear pathways to success by offering high-quality qualifications for both young people and adults.

Click to find out more about the newly reformed level 3 and level 2 qualifications

