



Department
for Education

Post-16 qualifications reform at level 3 and below newsletter

Issue 1 2026

Thank you for contributing to the post-16 pathways consultation

Thank you to everyone who sent contributions to our recent consultation on post-16 pathways at level 3 and below, which closed on **12 January 2026**. More than **750** responses were received, reflecting the time, care, and expertise invested across the sector.

Alongside the written consultation, we engaged extensively with stakeholders throughout the consultation period, speaking with nearly 1400 people through 88 engagement events, including webinars, in person meetings, and semi structured interviews. This level of engagement mirrors the sector's ongoing commitment to shaping a clearer, more coherent post-16 qualifications system that works for all students, helps them progress, and meets the needs of our economy.

We are hugely grateful for the high degree of commitment and collaboration made by so many in support of the consultation.

Our aim is to publish our response to the consultation as soon as possible - your feedback is shaping our thinking and advice to Ministers.

We recognise that these reforms come at a time when the sector has already experienced significant change, and we understand the importance of getting this right for young people.

Many providers have asked for clarity on which qualifications will be available in 2026/27. We know how important this information is for planning, and we want to provide the full picture as soon as possible. We will set out our position on transition alongside the government's response to the consultation in the coming weeks.



CONTACT US

[VISIT](#) our provider webpages.

[STAY INFORMED](#) by signing up to our mailing list and share this link with colleagues so that they are up-to-date with news and information about qualifications reform.

[CONTACT US](#) via our email to make suggestions about what you would like to see in future newsletters.



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**TELL US HOW WE
DID.....**



We'd really value hearing about your experience of the engagement activities we delivered during the consultation period.

The survey will take less than five minutes to complete and your responses will play an important role in shaping our engagement planning for new qualification pathways, so every response genuinely makes a difference.

Thank you again for your continued engagement and support.

**[CLICK
HERE FOR
SURVEY](#)**

T-LEVELS

T Level update

Health and Science T Level specifications

Pearson have been finalising the updates to the Health and Science T Levels ahead of first teach in September 2026 with the aim to have materials published in Spring. Pearson are happy to be contacted by any provider who wishes to see the specifications and will be required to join their Provider Panel to access updates going forward.

Interested providers can reach out to Andrew.Hambelton@Pearson.com

Support Materials Implementation and Delivery

If you would like to share information with parents/carers, learners and employers then this can be found on the [T Levels website](#):

