



Scottish Qualifications Authority  
Ùghdarras Theisteanas Na H-Alba

19 November 2024

Douglas Ross MSP  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
By email to: [ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

Dear Mr Ross

Today, we have published *A Prospectus for Change*, an ambitious blueprint for Scotland's new qualifications body.

I provided the Committee with an overview of key points from the Prospectus when I gave evidence in September and am pleased to now be able to share the final version.

Publication of the Prospectus is a significant milestone for the education and skills community and marks the start of a year-long transition from SQA to Qualifications Scotland, subject of course to the progress of the Education (Scotland) Bill through Parliament.

The Prospectus has been developed through extensive consultation and engagement with learners, teachers and many stakeholder organisations, as well as SQA staff.

As part of that, I really valued the opportunity to meet a number of Committee members in their capacity as education spokespeople. Their insights have been instrumental in shaping this Prospectus.

Like SQA, Qualifications Scotland will have a responsibility to maintain standards in our qualifications system, but we recognise there is a need for transformational change so that the new organisation feels tangibly different and in the right ways. This is much more than a name change; this is about resetting relationships and rebuilding and maintaining trust.

Three key pledges lie at the heart of the Prospectus:

- resetting relationships with learners and teachers to win back their trust

- grasping the potential of technology to streamline services, making them more accessible and efficient
- delivering qualifications and assessments that keep pace with rapid changes in society and the economy.

Commitments in the Prospectus include:

- rebalancing assessment so that reliance on high-stakes external exams is reduced and the use of continuous and internal assessments is increased
- digital on-screen assessments to make them more accessible for learners, starting with pilots in subjects like Computing Science
- reviewing and modernising the qualifications portfolio so that it meets the needs of today's society and economy, while continuing to offer a range of pathways for learners
- streamlining assessment processes and reducing workload for teachers and lecturers, while maintaining the credibility and integrity of Scotland's qualifications system.

The Prospectus and further information can be found at:

- [\*A Prospectus for Change – SQA Corporate Plan\*](#)
- SQA News Release – [\*Roadmap to Qualifications Scotland unveiled, pledging to reset relationships with learners and teachers\*](#)

I hope you found this update useful. We will continue to keep you, and the Education, Children and Young People Committee informed on progress with the commitments in the Prospectus and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Robertson  
SQA Chief Executive and Scotland's Chief Examining Officer