

02 September 2014

James Emmett  
Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Employers)  
Pearson  
Regulatory Stakeholder Relations  
Quality, Standards and Research Division  
One90 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 7BH

Dear James,

**Letter of support for the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture**

As a major employer in the sector, we recognise the following qualification as being fit for purpose:

500/9934/6 - Pearson BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Horticulture (QCF)

The qualification when achieved at level 2 will support learners to progress to employment or within employment in a range of job roles across the industry, for example at RBG Kew we require a level two qualification for Kew Diploma entry (which aims to instruct and develop craft level horticultural professionals for technical and managerial positions) and for most horticultural roles higher than apprentice our entry grade.

For such roles, we believe that these qualifications provide an appropriate level of knowledge and skills, meeting the needs of our business and the individual, ensuring employees are appropriately skilled for the job and able to deliver to the standard that the sector expects.

The qualification will also support the individual, should they chose to progress in to further training which we would hope will happen as there is an acute shortage of candidates for more senior roles.

We are happy for Pearson to use this letter in support of its work with government and its agencies, to ensure that this invaluable qualification can continue to be recognised for college performance tables and 19+ funding.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Staniforth*

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