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James Emmett
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3rd March 2014

Dear James

Letter of Recognition – BTEC National Diplomas (Blacksmithing and Metalworking)

As chairman of the UK's largest representative body for blacksmiths I can assure you this qualification is valued by employers and gives many young people the opportunity for entry into employment within the blacksmithing and metal working industry. The loss of this training provision will deliver a serious blow to training in this sector. As you are probably aware the craft sector is predicted to grow at around 12% over the next 5 years or so, many blacksmithing businesses will be looking for staff with the skill this qualification delivers.

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Blacksmithing and Metalworking (QCF)
501/1217/X**

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking
(QCF) 501/1220/X**

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking (QCF)
501/1219/3**

**Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Blacksmithing and Metalworking
(QCF) 501/1218/1**

We believe that these qualifications develop and confirm specialist knowledge and skills in the sector, to a standard that can be reasonably expected of an 18 year old in full time education.

In the absence of any current formal blacksmithing apprenticeship programme in the UK, and I reiterate these BTECs provide the only relevant training and valid qualifications below degree level for trainees within, and recruits to, the workforce of businesses in this important sector of the skilled craft trades.

I am happy for my name and organisations name to be made available on the DfE and Pearson websites to confirm that we recognise the qualifications.

Yours sincerely

Steve Rook

Chairman British Artist Blacksmith Association.