Society of Operations Engineers

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Dear James

Letter of support for the Pearson Level 3 Engineering qualifications

As a leading professional body in the sector and a member of the Engineering Council, we recognise the following qualifications as being fit for purpose:

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering

The qualifications will support learners to progress to higher education, employment or within employment in a range of job roles across the industry, including Engineering Technician roles where a broad range of engineering skills and knowledge will be required including mechanical, electrical and manufacturing skills.

The following qualifications support a more general approach to engineering by allowing learners to develop a broad range of skills to meet individual employer needs which are often required for a small/medium sized business where employees may be required to be multi-skilled.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Foundation Diploma in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Engineering

These qualifications will support learners to progress to higher education or to become General Engineering Technicians and Fitters where a broad range of knowledge and skills will be required. We particularly welcome the wide range of options available to learners for these qualifications, including Mechanical Behaviours of Metal Materials, Programmable Logic Controllers and Thermodynamic Principles and Practice as this will benefit them, by giving them the wide overview of the sector that we value. The Extended Certificate is ideal for learners who are studying this qualification alongside additional qualifications (i.e. A Levels) and wish to progress to higher education within an engineering context or for employees who require additional knowledge and skills development, especially where an employee has been employed for a while and wishes to develop their skills to progress within the organisation, these would be employees

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who are employed in operative roles. The Foundation Diploma would be targeted at learners who are planning to progress to higher education within the Engineering sector and this qualification forms part of a study programme studied within a college or at employees who wish to become junior technicians. The Diploma is suitable for Apprentices, employees or potential employees who wish to become an engineering technician. The Extended Diploma is appropriate for Apprentices and employees who wish to become senior engineering technicians or develop themselves further with additional training and higher qualifications to become Engineers.

More specifically for the following qualifications, we acknowledge that these could lead to employment or entry to higher education in specific occupations for that sub-sector.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
These qualifications will support learners to become Mechanical Technicians and Fitters where an in-depth knowledge of Mechanical properties of materials (including metals, polymers and composites) as well fluid mechanics will be required. It will also enable a learner to progress onto either a general engineering or a specialist Mechanical Engineering programme of study at a Higher Education Institution. The Diploma is suitable for Apprentices, employees or potential employees who wish to become an engineering technician. The Extended Diploma is appropriate for Apprentices and employees who wish to become senior engineering technicians or develop themselves further with additional training and higher qualifications to become Engineers.

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering
These qualifications will support learners to become Aerospace/Aeronautical Technicians and Fitters where an in-depth knowledge of Airframe construction, propulsion and aircraft maintenance will be required. It will also enable a learner to progress onto either a general engineering or a specialist Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering programme of study at a Higher Education Institution. The Diploma is suitable for Apprentices, employees or potential employees who wish to become an engineering technician. The Extended Diploma is appropriate for Apprentices and employees who wish to become senior engineering technicians or develop themselves further with additional training and higher qualifications to become Engineers.

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

The Engineering Council is the UK regulatory body for the engineering profession, holding the Register of 235,000 professional engineers and technicians. In addition, the Engineering Council sets and maintains the internationally recognised standards of professional competence and ethics that govern the award and retention of these titles, the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC). Licences are granted by the Engineering Council to professional engineering institutions (PEIs), allowing them to assess candidates for inclusion on its Register of professional engineers and technicians, and to approve programmes that contribute to the requirements for registration. The following qualifications will be reviewed for inclusion on the Engineering Council's public database for technician related qualifications as having been approved by at least one of the PEIs licensed to do so by the Engineering Council and to our standards.

The qualifications are approved as contributing to the requirements for professional registration as an Engineering Technician (EngTech). Holding an approved qualification alone does not guarantee the award of the professional title EngTech.

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

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