



Joint Council for Qualifications

Appointment of specialist assessors for candidates with learning difficulties

For the attention of SENCOs, specialist assessors and heads of centre

Specialist assessors will note from this year's JCQ publication *Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments* there is now a requirement for a specialist assessor to have a post-graduate qualification in individual specialist assessment at or equivalent to Level 7. (See paragraph 7.3.4, page 82).

Specialist assessors with a **current** SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) are unaffected by this change. Qualified psychologists registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) are similarly unaffected by this change.

A specialist assessor with **a qualification in individual specialist assessment** should, in the first instance, check with the organisation which awarded their qualification whether it is at Level 7 or equivalent to Level 7.

Please note that the JCQ and the awarding bodies cannot confirm the Level of a particular qualification in individual specialist assessment.

If the qualification in individual specialist assessment is confirmed as being at Level 7, or equivalent to Level 7, then no further action is required. The specialist assessor meets the published criteria.

Where a specialist assessor has **successfully completed a qualification in individual specialist assessment which is lower than Level 7**, for example a Level 5 Certificate, he/she may continue to assess students within their centre for this academic year. A specialist assessor with a post-graduate qualification in Special Educational Needs, such as an MA in Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs, who has additionally undertaken training in individual assessment may also continue to assess students within their centre for this academic year. This will prevent unnecessary disruption to the assessment process.

However, the specialist assessor must progress to and successfully complete a post-graduate qualification in individual specialist assessment at or equivalent to Level 7 by no later than 31 August 2017.

By the start of the academic year 2017/18, 1 September 2017, all specialist assessors as appointed by heads of centre must either be:

- a qualified psychologist registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC); or
- a specialist assessor with a **current** SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate; or
- a specialist assessor with a post-graduate qualification in individual specialist assessment at or equivalent to Level 7.

Evidence of the specialist assessor's qualification(s) must be held on file for inspection purposes. The documentation must be presented to the JCQ Centre Inspector by the SENCo.