

London & SE Regional Seminar  
Notes of meeting - 11 November 2011

Course Issues

Mike Bristow talked on the Green Agenda. There are worries that the fall in the 'feed in' tariff will stall the uptake in courses in Environmental Technologies and Photovoltaic Installation (C&G 2399 and 2372)

Alan Gray reported that SEMTA have advised that whilst HNCs cannot be funded within the Advanced Apprenticeship Frameworks, they have managed to gain a little "wriggle room" and will now be allowed to include five or six. NFEC has been asked to choose which HNCs should be adopted in which frameworks.

Also the issues of RPL is affecting many people who collectively have successfully completed a wide range NQF qualifications, mainly BTEC Nationals, which, whilst being either identical to or very nearly identical to their QCF equivalent are not being recognised as valid for RPL. This ridiculous situation must change and NFEC will be lobbying SEMTA and also the NAS who seem to be behind this illogical situation as we gather more evidence from around the country.

Ruth Wright reported that SEMTA were to map the NVQs and Awarding Organisations were to map the RVQs.

Robert Else asked about Functional Skills reporting that the OCR level 2 qualifications in IT which had been accepted previously was no longer acceptable.

Mike Bristow reported back on the Building Services meeting held with C&G, BACH, NFEC and AOC. C&G were looking to extend the present qualifications to December 2012 but in the meantime would work towards revamping the qualifications with one year at each level. Ray Jenkins and Martin Roach offered their services in helping C&G.

Ray Jenkins asked about issues with C&G 2356, C&G to come back.

Mike also reported that it was possible to claim unit funding for those on income support to study individual units.

Graham Goodwin of C&G gave an update on the Engineering qualifications. His overheads are attached. In welding there were some smaller accredited qualifications also some virtual e-learning material being made available. C&G were supporting SEMTA in Higher Level Apprenticeships with the possibility of a two tier system, managerial and vocational. In automotive there was now an apprenticeship available in England with a single registration and a HLA being developed. Qualifications were also available in cycle maintenance. He also informed the meeting that registrants on a 9000 code (apprentice fee package) would receive a 10% discount and also free Key Skills.

There were questions as below (with his later answers)

Is 2392 being extended beyond its current date?

Yes. The new final registration date is 31 Dec 2012. A centre update will be published this week covering all the plumbing/electrotech products with associated dates. I can send this on separately in case centres don't receive separately and we will also be at NFEC with copies.

Will 2394 include practical assignments?

Yes, both practical and online assessments.

The future of PEO was discussed with worries still about the 240 Guided Learning Hours. Alan Gray pointed out that the future of GLH was to be discussed at the National Conference. It was pointed out that future funding might include an element of progression to industry.

Bob Whitehead gave talk on HE in FE with inputs from LSBU.

David Tann of LSBU gave an input on the work of CEREB and a visit was made to the roof to see the renewable resources mounted there.

Date and venue for next meeting - 9th March 2012 at IPS International.