

## **Study on the Reasonableness of Fees for Other Widely Used Qualifications – Report by Grant Thornton**

### **Our conclusions**

1. Ofqual welcomes the contribution made by this report to the development of a better understanding of the issues involved in assessing the fees charged by awarding organisations for widely used qualifications other than GCSEs and A levels.
2. In general, the fees charged for the selected qualifications have increased by just a little more than inflation over a number of years.
3. Further work needs to be done to understand the factors contributing to total fees paid by centres; for example changes in numbers of learners and numbers of qualifications per learner.
4. The study found that many awarding organisations do not structure their accounts in a way that enables direct comparison between fees and costs for single qualifications. It is therefore unlikely that the fees charged by these awarding organisations for individual qualifications directly reflect the costs incurred.
5. Ofqual will consider what information it will be necessary to collect from awarding organisations in order to carry out its anticipated statutory responsibility to secure that regulated qualifications are provided efficiently and that fees represent value for money. Ofqual may need to be prescriptive as to the format and definition of any data requests and may make the provision of such data mandatory as a condition of recognition. Ofqual would consult those affected before imposing any such requirement.
6. Ofqual will consult on measures to improve the transparency of fees for qualifications.
7. Ofqual will undertake further work in respect of its powers in the Education and Skills Act 2008 and in preparation for its anticipated new duties, as set out in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill. Ofqual has considered carefully the findings of this study and the issues raised in the report will inform that work.