



## Education and Skills Committee — School Infrastructure Report

### SQA response to the Committee's recommendations

04 December 2017

#### Background

On 3 October 2017, the Convener of the Education and Skills Committee wrote to SQA requesting a response to the Committee's recommendations in its *School Infrastructure* report.

There are two recommendations (numbers 52 and 54), for SQA to address:

- **Number 52.** The Committee recommends that the Scottish Government continues to support the CITB and the SQA to update training courses and qualifications in response to the Cole Report process and reports back to the Committee once it is complete.
- **Number 54.** The Committee recommends that the SQA and CITB meet with the SBF to discuss the new SVQ qualifications and take on board any remaining concerns the SBF may have.

#### SQA's response to Number 52

We thank the committee for this recommendation and are always keen to work constructively and collaboratively with industry bodies such as the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and for there to be an ongoing positive dialogue between the industry and SQA.

SQA is responsible for developing qualifications and assessments that meet the needs and requirements of Sector Skills Councils (SSC) across the country. In this instance the relevant SSC is the CITB.

Like every other SSC, the CITB is responsible for determining its own National Occupational Standards, its assessment strategy, and the structure of the Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) within the sector, and will have consulted directly with industry on these. It is then up to awarding bodies, such as SQA, to make a submission to award the SVQs. The SVQs certificated by SQA are designed to be awarded on the basis of competence.

It is therefore for the CITB to consider how the findings of the Cole Report should be implemented with regards to the content of training courses and qualifications.

## **SQA's response to Number 54**

SQA will continue to be in close contact with all parties and is committed to working with the industry. We are providing support to our delivery centres as they implement the new qualifications, including the skills test.

It is also for the CITB, as the sector body and owner of the National Occupational Standards, to take on board any remaining concerns that bodies such as the Scottish Building Federation (SBF) may have with the new SVQ qualifications.