Follow up guidance from TEC (extracted from email sent 27 March 2023)

A few updates regarding your upcoming April advice to TEC. It's important messaging, and quite detailed, so please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

New qualifications, credentials, or where a TEO needs to change their programme in response to changes in qualification

Draft advice has shown that several WDCs want to give advice around new qualifications or credentials (things that are still being developed) or where there are changes to qualifications that will require TEOs to change their programmes.

We want to provide clear and consistent guidance about how to message this in your advice.

If we do not expect any provider to deliver against the new qualification/ programme/ credential in 2024, the WDC should include it as an **FYI only.**
If the qualification/ programme/ credential is available to providers to include in their MoPs when they submit in July, it is **give effect advice**.
If the qualification/ programme/ credential will not be ready for provider's July MoPs, but is expected to be available to TEOs to deliver as some point in 2024, the following applies: 1. The WDC should signal they are developing or reviewing qualification in a certain area at certain level. We can signal this in *Supplementary Plan Guidance* and advise that we will look to invest in WDC endorsed programmes and credentials in this area when they are available (within funding constraints). 2. The WDC should provide a time estimate of when the qualification/ programme/ credential will be available. 3. The WDC must note that there are limited windows where their advice impacts investment decisions. If it cannot impact the main investment round decisions (July-Nov) then the next window is in-year additional funding which occurs after April (dependent on available funding). This means this advice may not meet the test of 'give effect'. 4. Where a WDC is requiring new qualification/ programme/ credential, this is likely to be because the current offerings are no longer meeting needs. We would expect to see corresponding advice about which qualification/ programme/ credential we should reduce investment in or at least in the interim not grow.

There is some flexibility available to providers to change the provision they offer after their funding has been approved for the year. In general, we require the provider to contact TEC to get specific guidance on how this can be done. We are open to these changes if they do not result in a move from high priority to low priority provision or reduce the offerings to under-served learners.

Point of contact

In the weeks after receiving your advice on the mix of vocational and education and training, a team from across TEC will review it to determine what can be actioned for inclusion in *Supplementary Plan Guidance*, which is published in early June.

As you will appreciate, the turn-around time to analyse your advice and have the *Supplementary Plan Guidance* content approved by our Board of Commissioners is tight. Can you please confirm who we should reach out too, should we have any clarifying questions on your advice, and how you

would like this to occur. Any responses by you would need to be authorised for release to TEC in a relatively short time frame. TEC is scheduled to meet on 1 May to make final recommendations on the advice and to begin the sign-out process with the Board of Commissioners.

TEC's Executive Leadership Team have approved the approach to additional funding for the 2023 in-year round

For vocational education and training (UFS delivery) the approach will consider two things:

- Is the provider on track to meet or exceed their current allocation?
  This is important as many providers are showing declining numbers and we will only be considering additional funding where current allocations are exhausted and cannot be reallocated to areas of growth.
- Is the provider delivering priority provision?

If a provider is meeting both these requirements, we will look to make direct contact with them and discuss additional funding. This is likely to happen towards the middle of the year after the April SDR data has been analysed.

We are aware that the advice WDCs provided for 2023 investment reflected the amount of engagement and analysis that they had been able to do at that point. <u>In recognition of this, we intend to use the advice that WDCs provide in April (focused on 2024 investment) to inform the 2023 in-year additional funding.</u>