

## ***Confidential***

**Meeting:** Qualifications Board  
**Location:** Virtual - Zoom  
**Date:** 14 April 2023, 11.45 – 15:30

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### **PRESENT:**

The Chair (Nora Nanayakkara), Carol-Ann Boothe, Paul Layzell, Paul Lewis and Matthew Wong.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Executive Director – Content, Quality and Innovation (Alan Hatfield), Director - Professional Qualifications (Ann Lamb), Head of Education Recognition (Katrina Smyth), Head of ACCA Qualifications (Jacky Bateman), Qualifications Data Science Lead (Tom Laycock, for items 1-6 only), Lead – Exam Delivery and Innovation (Tony Peguinho, for item 1-6 only), Qualification Content Manager (Alison Hennell, for item 8 only), Specialist Solutions Lead (Rachel Norman, for item 9 only), The Chair of ACCA's Regulatory Board (Lucy Winskell), Secretariat, Lead - Content (Hannah Clarke) and Secretariat Officer (Jo Burns).

### **OBSERVERS:**

Kate Ringham (Oxford Brookes University) – items 1-6 only.

### **APOLOGIES:**

An apology was received from Elaine Darby.

#### **1. MINUTES and ACTION LOG**

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting of the Qualifications Board held on 13 January 2023 and approved the Action Log.

#### **2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **3. ACCA AND OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Board received an oral update on the ACCA and Oxford Brookes University Partnership from the Director – Professional Qualifications.

#### **4. REMOTE INVIGILATION OVERVIEW**

The Board received an update from the Programme Lead - Exam Delivery & Innovation.

## **5. EXAMINATION RESULTS GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Board received a presentation from the Director – Professional Qualifications and the Qualifications Data Science Lead on the delivery of exams and the results of the March 2023 exam session.

The Board also received confirmation from the Director – Professional Qualifications confirming the details of a report by the Chief External Examiner on her review of the exam papers. The Chief External Examiner confirmed the following in the report:

- The Applied Knowledge exams were set at Level 4. The Law exam was set at Level 5. The other Applied Skills exams were set at Level 6 and the Strategic Professional exams were set at Level 7. It was confirmed that all exams were comparable in standard and there were no overlaps.
- All papers covered various scenarios with an appropriate mix of style and diversity.
- The rigorous analysis of exam results provides integrity to the process.
- That there were no aspects of the exams that gave her cause for concern and that she was satisfied with all aspects.

Based on the evidence presented and subsequent discussion, the Board agreed to ratify the March 2023 examination results.

## **6. ACCA WIDE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Board received an overview of ACCA's strategic priorities for 2023 from the Executive Director – content, quality and innovation.

## **7. ACADEMIC PATHWAY**

The Board received an update on ACCA's pilot programme for an academic pathway from ACCA's Qualifications Content Manager.

## **8. CICPA/BNAI PATHWAY PROGRAMME**

The Board received an update on ACCA's pathway programme from ACCA's Specialist Solutions Lead. The Board was invited to confirm that it was satisfied:

- with the approach taken to assure the standard of the BNAI/ CICPA pathway.
- that the completion of the pathway will provide an equivalent route to ACCA membership for successful pathway participants; and
- the quality assurance mechanisms for the operation of the pathway are appropriate.

The Qualifications Board confirmed that it was satisfied with the three points advanced (as set out above) and was content to support this pathway.

**9. LEAD REGULATOR UPDATE**

The Board noted the update on ACCA's interactions with its lead regulators from the Head of Education Recognition.

**10. QUALIFICATIONS BOARD WORK PLAN**

The Board discussed and approved its work plan for the Council year 2022-2023, subject to the addition of the use of AI in assessments to the work plan.

**11. ACCA's REGULATORY BOARD**

The Board received a presentation on the work of ACCA's Regulatory Board from the Chair of ACCA's Regulatory Board, which has been subsequently uploaded to Diligent for the Board's information.

**12. QUALIFICATIONS BOARD EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW RESULTS**

The Board discussed the results of the Qualifications Board effectiveness review.

**13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board noted the future meeting dates of the Qualifications Board:

- Friday 14 July 2023
- Friday 13 October 2023