

## ***Confidential***

**Meeting:** Qualifications Board  
**Location:** Virtual - Zoom  
**Date:** 14 April 2022, 10:30 – 13:20

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### **PRESENT:**

The Chair (Nora Nanayakkara), Elaine Darby, Cristina Gutu, Paul Layzell, Paul Lewis and Gillian McCreadie.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Executive Director – Content, Quality and Innovation (Alan Hatfield), Director – Practice Regulation (Sundeep Takwani), 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) and Regulation Officer (Jo Burns).

### **OBSERVERS:**

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

### **APOLOGIES:**

No apologies were received.

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

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting of the Qualifications Board held on 14 January 2022 and also approved the Action Log.

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

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **3. ACCA WIDE DEVELOPMENTS - UPDATE ON UKRAINE AND RUSSIA**

The Board received an update on ACCA operations in Ukraine and Russia from the Executive Director – Content, Quality and Innovation and were provided with a link to the public statement by ACCA on its approach. ACCA agreed that a further update will be provided at the July 2022 Qualifications Board.



#### 4. 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 2022 exam session.

The Board also received a report from the Chief External Examiner on her review of the exam papers. The Chief External Examiner confirmed the following:

- the Applied Skills exams were set at Level 6 and all exams were comparable in standard and that there were no overlaps.
- the Strategic Professional exams were set at Level 7, all exams were comparable in standard and there were no overlaps.
- all papers covered realistic scenarios and problem solving.
- the rigorous analysis of examination results provides integrity to the process
- that there were no aspects of the examinations that gave her cause for concern and that she was satisfied with all aspects.

On the basis of the evidence presented and subsequent discussion, the Board agreed to ratify the March 2022 examination results.

#### 5. EXAMS UPDATE – ISSUES ARISING

The Board noted an update on issues arising since the last examination results governance review from the Head of ACCA Qualifications.

#### 6. LEAD REGULATOR UPDATE

The Board noted the update on ACCA’s interactions with its lead regulators from the Head of Education Recognition and that ACCA remains in good standing with its lead regulators.

#### 7. QUALIFICATIONS BOARD WORK PLAN

The Board discussed its work plan for the Council year 2021-2022 and agreed to update the ‘post-Covid review of how effectively ACCA delivered the examinations in response to the pandemic’ item to ‘mid/post Covid review of how effectively ACCA delivered the examinations in response to the pandemic’. ACCA agreed that this would be delivered as part of the Examinations Results Governance Review and also the ACCA-Wide Developments agenda items.



**8. KEEPING THE QUALIFICATION RELEVANT**

The Board received an update on the content of the ACCA Qualification from the Head of ACCA Qualifications.

**9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board noted the future meeting dates of the Qualifications Board. ACCA advised that each Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) will be offered one face to face meeting per year, to be held at the London offices of ACCA. The Board agreed to hold the October 2022 meeting in person:

- Friday 15 July 2022 - virtual
- Friday 14 October 2022 – in person