

Upgrading SQA systems

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JCQ's A2C Programme

- SQA is a full member of the Joint Council for Qualifications, but not initially part of the A2C Programme
- A2C vision: *In line with the ISB data standards model, JCQ is working collaboratively with awarding organisations and suppliers of management information systems to agree and embed a common set of best practice standards, including new data structures, business processes and messaging that will transform the way in which our customers are able to select and utilise general and vocational qualification products and services, allowing them to make informed choices on a cost effective and fit for purpose basis.*

www.jcq.org.uk/about-a2c



Benefits of A2C

The full benefits of the A2C data standards will be realised by MIS suppliers and awarding organisations by being incorporated into the design and implementation of their updated systems, bringing quality, consistency and ease of use to examinations officers.

- Greater consistency in process, standardised terminology and naming conventions regardless of AO.
- Product Catalogue data providing richer info about qualifications.
- ~~Provide messages which can be used to keep data held on centre MIS systems aligned with Awarding Organisation records.~~

www.jcq.org.uk/about-a2c/what



SQA's Awards Processing System

- In place since 1999, with major upgrade in 2004 (REUR)
- REUR was pioneering in its day, but...



New system for vocational qualifications

- SQA's IT strategy prefers software as a service approach
- Seeking new awarding organisation system (AOS) for vocational qualifications
- Very aware of centres offering 'vocational' and 'general' qualification – primarily Scottish colleges...
- ...so we will ensure that centres only have one system to use, not two
- Rationalising portals – currently SQA.net, SQA Connect, ...
- New system must be A2C compliant, but must still support existing (XML) transactions in interim



Benefits of new system

- Consistent with systems used by other AOs
- Product Catalogue richer than current Reference data
- Ability to hold satellite assessment sites – QV planning, getting exam papers to correct campus
- Single portal
- Online reporting for your centre



Questions

