

OfS quality assurance of integrated EPA - what does it mean in practice?

20 November 2024



Welcome

Webinar Structure

- Introduction
- Presentation
- Q&A
- Next steps

Q&A

- Use the Q&A panel to submit questions
- Focus your questions on webinar topics
- You'll receive the webinar recording and slides after the session

Introductions



Emily Hughes

**Senior Associate
SDN**



Claire Gill

**Senior Associate
SDN**

Introductions



Claire Morley

**Head of Skills and Apprenticeships
University of Derby**



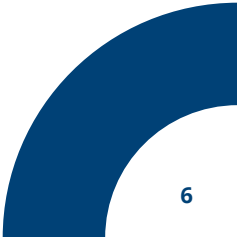
Sean Lancaster

**Senior Risk Manager -
Apprenticeship Assessment
OfS**

Focus of today....

- ✓ The experiences of providers and OfS through the EQA process
- ✓ The key areas to consider in your preparation for delivery of integrated end point assessment
- ✓ The requirements of OfS quality assurance readiness checks
- ✓ The requirements OfS quality assurance monitoring checks
- ✓ The practical implications for those delivering integrated EPA

Poll...





Claire Morley
University of Derby

The experiences of providers and OfS through the EQA process



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TEF Teaching
2023 Excellence
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OfS External Quality Assurance Insights

Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship

**Claire Morley
Head of Skills and
Apprenticeships**

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EQA Activity with OfS

Overview of EQA Role

- Nominated lead
- Stakeholder management and organisation of cross-functional teams
- Evidence collation

Key Takeaways

- Enhanced collaboration
- Challenges
- Audit ready culture
- Evidence gathering
- Institutional learning



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Insights and Next Steps

Insights

- Good Practice
- Continuous Improvement
- Personal Reflection
- Key Learning

Next Steps/Looking Ahead

- Quality Enhancement
- Marinating Audit-Readiness



Sean Lancaster
Office for Students

The requirements of OfS quality assurance

- **Readiness checks**
- **Monitoring checks**

OfS EQA update Autumn 2024

Sean Lancaster
OfS EQA Team

Office for
Students



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Introduction

Aims of these slides:

- Reminder of what we do in an assessment
- Share some of our findings from the first 9 months of operation
- Outline our plans for the next year

Where we are:

- 33 monitoring checks completed:
 - 23 final reports released to providers and IfATE
 - 10 reports being drafted or at final accuracy stage
- 6 new assessments underway, including our first readiness check

What do we do on an assessment?

- Set up an assessment team, typically comprised of one OfS officer and one expert assessor
- Provider submits an initial questionnaire to gather information about EPA timing, cohort sizes and grades
- Provider submits a self-assessment in the form of documentary evidence and a mapping table against the EQA principles
- OfS team reviews the evidence and develops questions for a visit
- Provider visit, meeting with:
 - EPA delivery team, staff responsible for QA
 - Current and past apprentices
 - Independent assessors (IAs)
 - Employer representatives
- OfS team reviews all the evidence and prepares the report
- Provider questionnaires: each provider invited to comment on the assessment and the IfATE EPA plan

Some themes for EPAOs to consider

Consistency & alignment to plan:

- Requirements – word counts, timings, etc.
- Number of resit and retake opportunities
- Relationship between EPA grade for apprenticeship and numerical mark for degree

Language:

- Differing understandings of terms: e.g. standardisation; moderation

Sub contractual and validation arrangements:

- Can create ambiguity over accountability/responsibility for EPA quality
- Can lead to a lack of continuity of experience for apprentices

Some themes for EPAOs to consider

Quality Assurance:

- Ensuring standardisation and moderation are effective
- Can be some confusion/conflict if different QA processes are expected for apprenticeships and mainstream provision
- External examiner reports are very brief:
 - Limited confidence in how effectively they are operating
 - Limited feedback to EPAO to drive enhancement
- Mechanisms to collect and action feedback from apprentices, employers and assessors often not very clear

Some themes for IfATE to consider

Use of independent assessors:

- Some plans require independence from the EPAO, others do not.
- The role of the independent assessor varies between plans
- Variable familiarity with the academic requirements of L6/L7
- Cost (employment & training), including the use of external agencies
- Small pool, so challenging for EPAOs to find IAs that are independent

Consistency:

- Difficulty of aligning IfATE EPA plans with university regulations:
 - Assessment requirements
 - Resit/retake opportunities
 - QA requirements

Positive feedback

Support for apprentices:

- Largely, apprentices report being well-supported by university staff through the EPA
- Communication tools (virtual learning environments) at universities are well-established and effective

Apprentice and employer voice:

- Generally, apprentices see the value of EPA, particularly where it allows them to consolidate and demonstrate their knowledge and skills
- They appreciate the apprenticeship as a whole - in many cases it forms their only opportunity to access degree-level education
- Employers see value in EPA – helps reassure them that things learnt through the degree can be applied in the workplace

OfS future plans

Monitoring for the next year:

- Undertake a monitoring check for every EPAO that has delivered at least one EPA (~40 providers), selection based on risk
- Initially sticking with the current 4 apprenticeships (PCDA, ACP, DTSP, DTSS)
- Expanding to some of the apprenticeships with fewer providers to fill in the gaps

Readiness:

- Piloting our first readiness assessment now
- Will then roll out to new providers based on risk

We are modifying our report structure and updating our guidance to reduce repetition and focus on areas of highest risk to delivery

Any questions?



Claire Gill

Strategic Development
Network

Risk based approach: what does that mean for EQA?

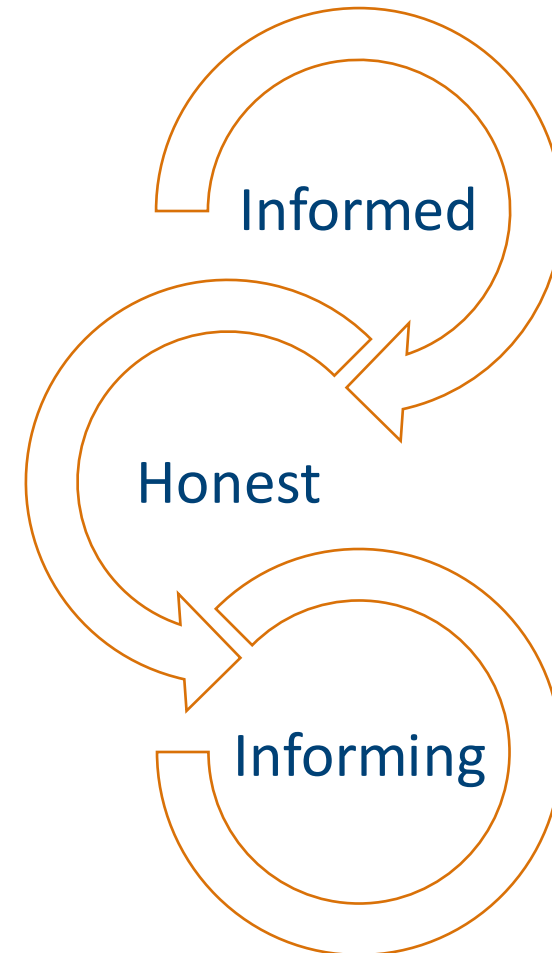
Judging the risks

What does that mean for EQA?



Risk types and self evaluation

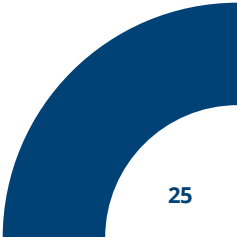
What do they mean for EQA?



Questions & Answers

Type your questions into the webinar panel

Poll...



Supporting HEIs

Launch, grow and improve your apprenticeship provision

We work with universities to:

- Expand apprenticeship and HTQ provision
- Set up robust systems and processes for compliance and funding
- Establish quality assurance systems and prepare for Ofsted inspection
- Design curriculums
- Improve the quality of teaching, learning and preparation for end-point assessment
- Set up as an EPAO, and design and deliver assessments
- Deliver CPD for faculty/apprenticeship staff



Supporting HEIs

EPA/EQA Support - Review your assessment approach and prepare for OfS/Ofqual monitoring

Drawing on our work with over 60 EPAOs and 80 universities delivering integrated apprenticeships, SDN conducts impartial assessment quality checks which include:

- ✓ An overarching review of: documentation, processes, policies, assessment instruments and approaches
- ✓ A standard-specific review of your assessment practices, processes, standardisation and moderation
- ✓ A detailed report of the review findings, improvements to be made and practical actions to take.

Alongside our EQA quality check, we can help you:

- ✓ Develop strong internal monitoring (IM) and self-evaluation (SE) of EPA
- ✓ Prepare for external examiner (EE) monitoring
- ✓ Practical help to support you make changes and improvements

Supporting HEIs

Meet our HEI apprenticeship specialists

You'll be assigned one of our industry-leading consultants to help you make real progress. You'll also have access to our wider team of experts and bank of resources.



Louise Doyle
Quality



David Lockhart-Hawkins
Compliance



Emily Hughes
Delivery/EQA
Assessment



Mandy Crawford-Lee
Strategy



Chris Cherry
Curriculum/EQA
Assessment



Claire Gill
EQA/Assessment

Get in touch to find out more



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Thank you for joining us

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- Access to the webinar recording
- Full slide deck
- Evaluation survey



Upcoming events

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Free Webinar | 21 November

ILR & data management for apprenticeships

In-depth webinar series | Starting 26 November

Seamlessly integrating degree assessment and end-point assessment for apprenticeships

Workshop | 12 December

Level 3 Award in undertaking end-point assessment

Online course | January 2025 onwards

Preparing for Ofsted Inspection as an HEI

Workshop | 20 January 2025

Apprenticeship compliance for leaders - CPD accredited

In depth webinar series | Starting 22 January 2025

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Thank you for joining us



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