



Joint Council for  
Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup>



# JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> A2C Data Standards Specification

## Section 6

### Results

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# Table of Contents

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1	Process Summary .....	3
2	Process Diagrams .....	4
2.1	Results Process Diagram.....	4
3	User Stories.....	5
4	Assumptions.....	7
5	Business Rules.....	9
5.1	Common Business Rules .....	9
5.2	Process-Specific Business Rules.....	9
6	Service Level Recommendations .....	14
7	Transaction Types .....	15
7.1	Centre-to-Awarding Organisation Transaction Types.....	15
7.2	Awarding Organisation-to-Centre Transactions.....	15
7.3	New to Old Transaction Type Mapping Table .....	15

# 1 Process Summary

This section describes the process of an awarding organisation making results data available for use by a centre using their MIS.

The new results data process replaces the format and content of the JCQ results, Pearson EDIFACT results and City & Guilds' returned results files. For example, it will cover the issue of GCE and GCSE results in January, March and August, vocational results issued weekly as well as on-screen test results.

The processes for results have been harmonised into a common approach which can be used across the specific requirements of particular specifications. Common data approaches and processes underpin the use of these results within a range of awarding organisations.

Within this section, results data refers to the content of any results messages from an awarding organisation to a centre.

The separation of GQ results data releases for centre staff and learners will continue.

New results and updates will be sent separately. Where an updated result is published, and a result has been previously issued, it will appear as a replacement record for the previously published result. Any contributing results may also be updated.

Results data for all GQ and VQ results will be published as per JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> and awarding organisation Service Level Recommendations.

The overall results process will provide more enriched data to centres than previous models, which will be enhanced by updates to the product catalogue (grade boundary updates). Data items such as overall results, UMS, grades and certificate numbers will be included where appropriate.

## 2 Process Diagrams

The processes within this document fall in the Manage/Process Results section of the high level diagram in Section 1.

### 2.1 Results Process Diagram

This process diagram shows the end-to-end business process for Results and is designed for use with end-users, eg examination officers.

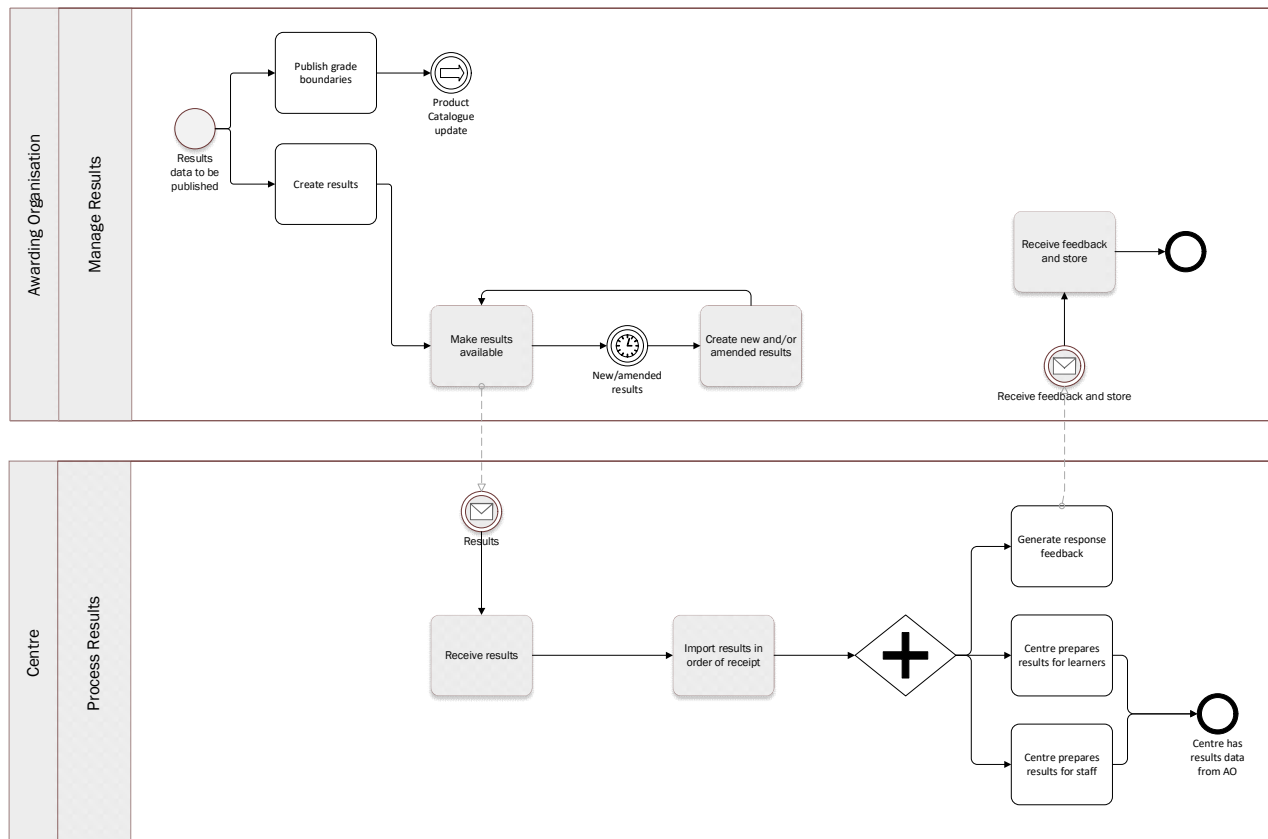


Figure 1 Results Process Diagram

### 3 User Stories

The user stories listed here provide contextual information about how the business process has been designed.

#### User Story 1 / Create results data

<b>As an:</b>	awarding organisation
<b>I want to:</b>	generate messages containing learner results (new) for a centre when they are due for publication
<b>So that:</b>	a centre can have that data in their MIS.

#### User Story 2 / Publish results data

<b>As an:</b>	awarding organisation
<b>I want to:</b>	make results messages available to a centre
<b>So that:</b>	a centre can import that information into their MIS.

#### User Story 3 / Accept results data

<b>As a:</b>	centre
<b>I want to:</b>	receive results data from an awarding organisation
<b>So that:</b>	I can accept and view the data in my MIS.

#### User Story 4 / Results data visible to centre

<b>As a:</b>	centre
<b>I want to:</b>	view and report on results data in my MIS
<b>So that:</b>	I can provide this information to candidates.

#### User Story 5 / Results data visible to centre

<b>As a:</b>	centre
<b>I want to:</b>	view and report on results data in my MIS
<b>So that:</b>	I can provide this information to colleagues and other relevant parties.

**User Story 6 / Create updated results data**

<b>As an:</b>	awarding organisation
<b>I want to:</b>	generate messages containing learner results updated for a centre when they are due for publication
<b>So that:</b>	a centre can have that data in their MIS.

**User Story 7 / Publish updated results data**

<b>As an:</b>	awarding organisation
<b>I want to:</b>	make results messages available to a centre
<b>So that:</b>	a centre can import that information into their MIS.

**User Story 8 / Accept updated results data (this may include late awards)**

<b>As a:</b>	centre
<b>I want to:</b>	receive updated results data from an awarding organisation
<b>So that:</b>	I can accept and view the data in my MIS.

## 4 Assumptions

Assumptions RA2, 3, 10, 11, 14-17, 19 are no longer relevant as they related to encryption of results.

Results	
RA1	Awarding organisation systems can identify A2C compliant centres. Awarding organisations will not create messages for non-A2C compliant centres.
RA4	The process for successfully requesting and processing a Late Award Cash-in within the post-results period is detailed in Section 4 <i>Orders</i> .
RA5	When a centre becomes A2C compliant, results will be provided via the MIS integrated transport, even if the corresponding entries were made by a non-A2C method (eg via extranet, or in JCQ EDI format via the A2C Migration Application). If the entries were made by a non-A2C method the legacy format will be used for provision of results, eg an EDI results file will be provided via the A2C compliant MIS system.
RA6	A2C results update messages will be sent by A2C only where the initial results message was also sent via A2C.
RA7	A2C results update messages will be sent for results issued since the centre became A2C compliant. Update messages for results made available before centre compliance will not be created/sent.
RA8	Results update messages may contain only the updated data item together with appropriate awarding organisation, centre, QE and learner identifiers and dates.
RA9	Awarding organisations may not re-issue results nor provide updates solely to provide certificate numbers where these were not included in the initial results message. Certificate numbers may only be included in results messages when the certificate data is available at the same time as results.
RA12	Results will be issued only to the centre making the original booking on behalf of the learner. Where orders are placed by one centre and assessments take place at another; results will only be issued to the centre that placed the order.  This principle applies to original publication of results; but does not apply to the publication of contributing outcomes. Where a centre has been issued an award on behalf of a learner that centre will receive the award outcome and any contributing outcomes even if these were achieved at a previous centre.
RA13	Contributing outcome data will be provided to give details only of the unit results that were used to give the overall award (eg for modular qualifications). Contributing outcomes below unit level, ie assessables, will not be provided. This assumption applies to contributing outcomes only, ie outcomes will be provided below unit level – see RA22.
RA18	The MIS will transmit a feedback message to the appropriate awarding organisation within two working days to indicate acceptance/rejection of each result message (and of each results update message).
RA20	Awarding organisations will record certificate production on their databases to inform the production of results update messages up to the generation of certificates. Awarding organisations will have a separate contingency process to deal with results updates after the production of certificates.

Results	
RA21	Results messages (including updates) will be produced by awarding organisations, and processed by MIS, in accordance with the specified sequencing rules.
RA22	Results for qualification elements at assessable level will only be included in the initial results message ie when they are achieved, or when there is any update to the original achievement. They will not be issued as contributing outcomes.
RA23	<p>Contributing outcomes are only issued where the parent and child Qualification Element Availability (QEA) have outcome value types in common. This means if a parent and child do not have any outcome value types in common there would not be any contributing outcome entities in the output message. For example, if the only outcome published for the award QEA is a grade and the contributing QEAs (which may be awards or learning units) do not have grades, then no contributing outcomes will be published.</p> <p>One purpose of the contributing outcome data is to provide detail of parent and child QEAs which can be used to validate the overall outcome, but implementers should note that this will only be feasible where the parent and child QEA have outcome value types that are numerical and overall outcomes for parent QEAs can be calculated by simple addition of the child QEA outcome values. The numerical outcome value types for which this may apply are: Uniform Mark Scale, credits and points.</p> <p>Grade to grade contributing outcomes are also supported since there are some awards where the award grade is dependent on the grades achieved for the child QEAs, rather than the marks achieved for them. One current example is Functional Skills where it is necessary to pass x of y modules in order to achieve the award. The pass for the award is achieved by gaining passes for the child modules and the actual marks achieved are not relevant. The contributing outcomes will indicate exactly which child modules contributed to the award; some modules may not contribute due to, for example, excluded combinations.</p>



## 5 Business Rules

The business rules listed here outline key features and behaviours which must be adhered to by awarding organisations and MIS software suppliers when developing systems and designing in-house business processes. Some of these rules will feature in the compatibility testing of the data and messaging standards.

### 5.1 Common Business Rules

The following common business rules are applicable to this process:

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
C1	All	All	Data and messaging will comply with the JCQ <sup>CIC</sup> A2C Data Standards and Schema, sending only the data required or permitted by the appropriate product catalogue.

### 5.2 Process-Specific Business Rules

The following rules have been identified specifically in relation to the process for results.

Rules R14 and 16 are no longer relevant.

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
R1	Results messages prepared	AO MIS	<b>Prior to results publication</b> Before publishing results or results updates, awarding organisations and MIS should ensure that placeholders exist within the centre MIS for all entered learners.
R2	Results messages prepared	AO	<b>Results to be published – result content</b> Awarding organisations will prepare results data in the A2C standard for each centre and for all orders for all learners at that centre. This will include graded results and a status. Only results available as indicated within the product catalogue will be issued (if required, an AO_QE_Id_Alternative_QE will be issued).
R3	Results messages prepared	AO MIS	<b>Results to be published</b> Results data will be published (subject to R4) for all learners and their orders/claims, irrespective of whether those orders/claims were submitted using A2C. Where A2C was not the original mechanism for the registration/entry/claim submission, an awarding organisation to centre update will have previously been made available to the centre's MIS to update their system.

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
R4	Results messages prepared	AO	<p><b>Embargoed results</b></p> <p>For JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> general qualifications, results messages will be made available according to the published JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> timetable ie the release dates which applied for EDI results will continue to apply for A2C. Guidance on results publication is available on the JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> website.</p> <p>These dates and times are also published in product catalogues using a key event name of Restricted Results Publication Date.</p> <p><b>Published results</b></p> <p>Results may be published to learners and other interested parties from the date and time specified in the product catalogue (key event name of Results Publication Date). This date is also provided on the JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> website.</p>
R5	Results messages prepared	AO	<p><b>Non-embargoed results releases</b></p> <p>For VQ results, results message updates will be made available weekly or in accordance with published SLRs.</p>
R6	Results messages prepared	AO	<p><b>Additional result attributes</b></p> <p>Raw marks will be made available at the discretion of individual awarding organisations.</p> <p>In addition, scaled/weighted marks and UMS (as applicable) will be made available.</p> <p>For Centre Assessed Outcomes, any Result_Scaling_Adjustment (if applicable) will be made available.</p>
R7	Results messages prepared	AO	<p><b>Additional result attributes</b></p> <p>Where a request for a Transfer of Credit (eg credit for a GCE AS award to be used towards a GCE Advanced award) has been processed by an awarding organisation, results will not be issued by that awarding organisation for any outcomes that were transferred, as Transfer of Credit is out of scope for A2C.</p>
R8	Results messages prepared	AO	<p><b>Inclusion of contributing outcomes</b></p> <p>If a unit result that was published in a previous series contributes towards an award gained in a later series, awarding organisations will republish that unit result as a contributing outcome of the award. Note that all awarding organisations are</p>

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
			working towards provision of contributing outcomes, but some may not include these in the initial implementation of A2C.
R9	Results messages prepared	AO	<b>1:2 relationship between results and qualifications</b> Where a result can be counted in two different qualifications eg a FSMQ qualification also being used for GCSE or GCE, the awarding organisation should publish a second result to reflect the alternative qualification types of the two orders. MIS systems should be able to accept this (see R19).
R10	Results messages prepared	AO	<b>Late Award Cash-in requests</b> For successful Late Award Cash-in requests, the awarding organisation will make results (including contributing outcomes where appropriate) for the learner available to the centre as part of the normal results update process.
R11	Results messages prepared	AO	<b>Results updated</b> Updates will be made available regularly between Restricted Results Publication Date and one week after this date, according to awarding organisation SLRs. After this, updates will be made available as required according to awarding organisation SLRs. The timescales for ending updates will be based on the same SLRs.
R12	Results made available for download	AO	<b>Non-embargoed results</b> Results messages with no set publication date (eg for vocational or on-demand qualifications) are not embargoed.
R13	Results made available for download	AO	<b>Results message publication timing</b> This will be in accordance with published JCQ <sup>CIC</sup> SLRs for results eg GCSE. Results for on-demand qualifications will be published according to awarding organisation SLRs.
R15	Results made available for download	AO	<b>Results embargo</b> All results will be embargoed by awarding organisations for qualifications with a set publication date eg GCSE. The qualifications affected can be identified from the product catalogue, where they will have both a Restricted Results Publication Date and a Results Publication Date. This means that they will be made available

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
			for download on the former but will be subject to embargo rules until the latter date.
R17	Results accepted in to MIS	MIS	<b>Results accepted where order or claim exists</b> Results should be automatically accepted in to the MIS and matched to the corresponding order/claim which already exists within the MIS.
R18	Results accepted in to MIS	MIS	<b>Results accepted where order or claim does not already exist</b> In the event of a result being published by an awarding organisation for an order or claim which does not already exist in the MIS, the system or examinations officer should automatically be able to create a record for that result to allow it to be included in subsequent reporting to learners and other third parties. The user or MIS should not submit a new order to the awarding organisation for this result.
R19	Results accepted in to MIS	MIS	<b>1:2 relationship between results and qualification types</b> Where a result can be counted in two different qualifications eg a FSMQ qualification also being used for GCSE or GCE, and an awarding organisation has published a second result (as per rule R9), the MIS should be able to successfully accept and present that second result to the centre user/learner.
R20	Results accepted in to MIS	MIS	<b>Preparing for receipt of results</b> Before loading results or results updates to the centre system it is essential that all amendments to orders have been applied within the centre MIS.
R21	Results published to authorised centre staff	MIS	<b>Embargoed results and updates</b> If results updates have been made available during the embargo period between Restricted Results Publication Date and Results Publication Date, the MIS system must download them and make available only the updated results data on Results Publication Date: a history of updates to results before Results Publication Date must not be made available.

Rule ID	Process Flow Reference	Party affected	Rule title and description
R22	Results published to authorised centre staff	MIS	<p><b>Presentation of all results data to centre staff</b></p> <p>All data provided by the awarding organisation must be made visible to centre staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• where more than one piece of data is provided, eg a grade (QE_Outcome_Value_Type: Grade) and UMS (QE_Outcome_Value_Type: Uniform Mark Scale), both pieces of data should be presented on an equal level</li><li>• additional information, eg the partial absence indicator (QE_Outcome_Qualifier_Type: Partial Absence), must be visible to the examinations officer and other centre staff</li><li>• certification details</li><li>• product catalogue instance data will be published to support grade boundaries (QE Availability Grade Boundary, Grade_Boundary_Lower_Limit) (see Product Catalogue Business Rules in Section 3 and Attribute Business Rules in Appendix 1)</li><li>• The award date should be presented as Month and Year.</li></ul>

## 6 Service Level Recommendations

These Service Level Recommendations (SLRs) reflect realistic end target dates for all awarding organisations migrating to A2C messages. Awarding organisations aspire to process messages within a shorter time frame. They are subject to UK public holidays and UK standard working days (Monday to Friday).

These SLRs will remain under review by the JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> during the early years of A2C adoption.

The following SLRs are applicable to this business process:

Service	Description	Examples
All results data will be published in accordance with awarding organisation SLRs and common JCQ <sup>CIC</sup> SLRs.	Awarding organisations are required to publish results data to centres on agreed dates as per individually published SLRs and JCQ <sup>CIC</sup> SLRs.	For example, on-demand or vocational qualification results will be published once a week.
Non-embargoed results messages.	Where a Results Publication Date is provided by an awarding organisation, results messages will be available from the date and time stated against that key event. Where no results date is provided by an awarding organisation, results messages will be available as stated in awarding organisation SLRs.	For example, vocational results.
Embargoed results messages.	Where a Restricted Results Publication Date is provided results will be made available to centres in advance of the official publication to learners date, but controls on access to results must be applied in centres.	For example, GCSE electronic results day.
Return of feedback response for results data.	The MIS will transmit feedback message to the appropriate awarding organisation within two working days of acknowledgement of the results data by the transport mechanism.	Acknowledgement from Transport: 17/08/2015 Feedback: 19/08/2015

## 7 Transaction Types

This section provides business descriptions and contextual information for each of the transaction types that support this business process.

### 7.1 Centre-to-Awarding Organisation Transaction Types

**Publish feedback – Results:** The MIS will transmit appropriate feedback messages to the awarding organisation.

### 7.2 Awarding Organisation-to-Centre Transactions

#### **Publish Results**

Awarding organisations will make results data available for centres to accept into their MIS in accordance with SLRs.

Embargoed results data will be published according to SLRs. It is likely that all initial GQ results data will continue to be issued in accordance with harmonised JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> key dates. Results data without an embargo date, or updated results data after an embargo date, will be issued weekly or as available. It is anticipated that VQ results data will be issued weekly or in accordance with published SLRs.

Centres will accept the results data. This will be done in a similar manner to any software updates that the centre will administer in sequence order.

### 7.3 New to Old Transaction Type Mapping Table

This table provides a mapping from the A2C transaction types described above back to the related file types in the old formats.

A2C Transaction type	Previous File Type(s)	Additional information
Publish results data	JCQ Results file City & Guilds' EDI Awards and Results files Pearson EDIFACT RESACK and TSTRES files	