A2C Update 21st December 2015

We have completed a small but very successful pilot of A2C with Capita SIMS, involving CCEA, WJEC and OCR in Northern Ireland and Wales: these Awarding Organisations processed all the entries made via A2C for a variety of qualifications, and the results will be returned through A2C in January 2016.

As well as confirming the benefits of A2C and that operationally the system works, the pilot highlighted areas which need to be addressed by a number of systems before embarking on a full scale rollout, particularly limitations relating to integration with some legacy systems.

We are also aware that introducing full-scale, sector-wide changes at the same time as major exam reform requires detailed risk management by centres, MIS and Awarding Organisations.

Capita SIMS has decided to re-develop its exams software at this point and has therefore indicated that it will be reverting the pilot centres to EDI once the November exam results have been imported. The new version of SIMS will be fully compatible with A2C. We expect other MIS to provide updates on their plans in the coming weeks and when available we will post these on the A2C website.

AQA, CCEA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC recognise that the "JCQ EDI format for General Qualifications" is no longer fit for purpose and are committed to the A2C programme.

Our prime responsibility is to ensure that the exams process is robust and therefore individual Awarding Organisations must be satisfied that they have eliminated any risk ahead of full implementation. The time profile of risks varies across the Awarding Organisations and consequently there are differences in their A2C rollout schedules.

The current position of the JCQ Awarding Organisations is that:

- AQA, OCR and WJEC will start A2C live pilots in September **2018**
- Pearson will start live pilots in September **2016** and rollout before, or with, other Awarding Organisations
- CCEA is ready to rollout and will start deployment as soon as SIMS is ready as originally envisaged (all C2K centres in Northern Ireland use SIMS)
- C&G will start deployment when the majority of suppliers are ready and collective AO industry progress has been made, so is currently planning for live pilots from September **2017**

In order to ensure the availability of parallel arrangements throughout this schedule of migration to A2C, EDI will continue to be supported until 31st December **2020**.

A further update will be provided in March 2016. In the meantime, queries should be directed to the Programme Director (wiltshirec@jcq.org.uk).

JCQ Board 21/12/2015