



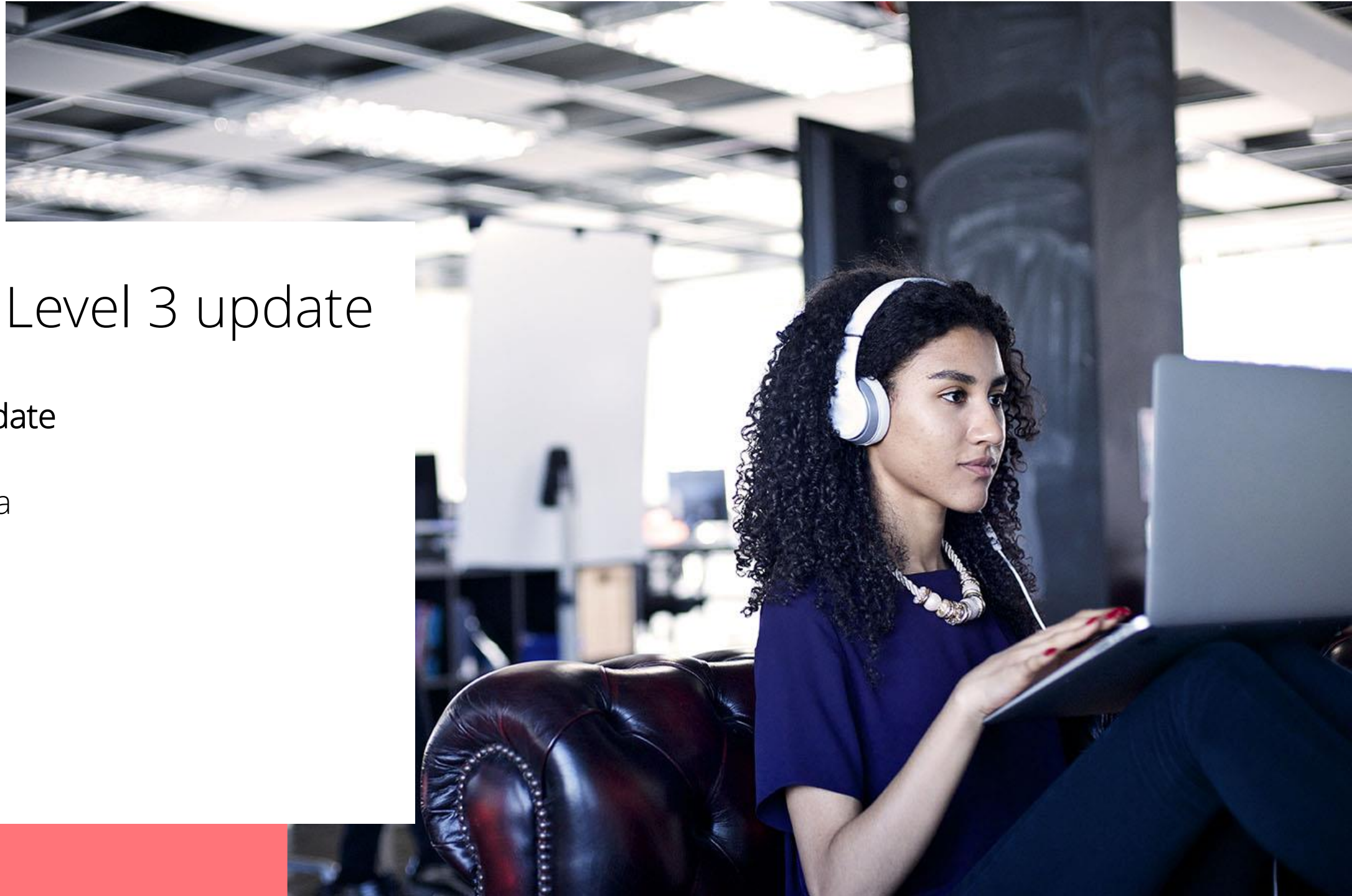
Pearson

BTEC Level 3 update

Neon update

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Background and context

Secretary of State's letter to House of Lords (April 2022):

"...many applied general qualifications, BTECs and other similar qualifications, have a **continuing and important role to play** alongside A levels and T Levels. **To be approved for funding in future they will need to meet new quality and necessity criteria.**"

"It may be reassuring to know through this process we expect to remove just a small proportion of the total level 3 BTEC and other applied general style qualification offer – **significantly less than half.**"

"I can now guarantee that employers will have the opportunity to support awarding organisations and say if they believe qualifications support entry into occupations not covered by T Levels as part of the appeals process."

What is happening?

Technical qualifications that overlap with T levels in Waves 1 and 2 are due to be defunded in 2024 / 2025.

On 11 May 2022, the DfE published the [provisional list of qualifications](#) that will no longer be funded from academic year 2024 / 2025 for 16-19 learners in England due to overlap.

Awarding bodies can appeal qualifications they think should not be on the list – with evidence.

Of the 160 qualifications identified, 41 are Pearson qualifications.



Why are qualifications on the list?

Qualifications had to meet three overlap tests AND not be an exception

Overlap tests – if Y to all, in scope

- **Test 1:** Is the qualification technical - primary purpose aims to support entry to employment in a specific occupational area(s)?
- **Test 2:** Are the outcomes of the qualification similar to those set out in an occupational standard covered by a T Level in Waves 1 and 2?
- **Test 3:** Does the qualification aim to support entry to the same occupations as a T Level?

Exceptions – if Y to either, not in scope

Exception A: The qualification is primarily designed to support those already in a job role, as our criteria for withdrawing funding is aimed at qualifications that overlap with the content and purpose of T Levels, including supporting entry into the same occupation as a T Level.

Exception B: The qualification is aligned with an occupational route within wave 3 and 4 T Levels, to ensure that we do not remove overlapping provision before Wave 3 and 4 T levels are widely available.



Which qualifications are impacted?

Of the 41 Pearson qualifications on the provisional list for defunding for 16-19 study programmes:

- 27 are BTEC National qualifications (including titles in Construction, Engineering, Childcare, HSC, IT/Computing).
- 11 are qualifications we either have plans to withdraw before 2024 / 2025, or are not available to learners.
- 7 are qualifications used as part of apprenticeship programmes.

Link to [DfE's provisional list](#)

DfE's updated [Impact Assessment](#) indicates a greater proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds impacted than previously assumed.



Timeline

- Technical qualifications that overlap with T Levels are defunded for 16-19 year olds (funding may be retained for adults)
- First introduction of new, reformed technical and academic qualifications (including both those for 16-19 year olds and adults)
- All remaining qualifications in this route that have not been reapproved for funding are defunded

		Academic years					
T Level Wave	Occupational routes	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Wave 1 and 2	Digital – qualifications delivering against employer-led Standards						
	Digital – specialist and cross-cutting skills qualifications						
	Construction						
	Education and childcare						
	Health and science						
Wave 3 and 4	Engineering and manufacturing						
	Legal, finance and accounting						
	Business and administration						
	Agriculture, environmental and animal care						
	Catering and hospitality						
	Hair and beauty						
	Creative and design						
Routes not covered by T Levels	E.g. Care services						
	E.g. Protective services						
	E.g. Sales, marketing and procurement						
	E.g. Transport and logistics						
Academic subjects not linked to occupational routes	E.g. Performing and creative arts						
	E.g. Sports science						



How your institution can help

[List of qualifications](#) and which we are appealing.

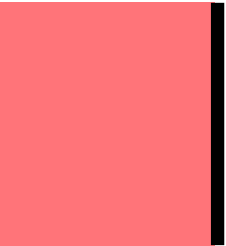
For qualifications we are appealing on the basis of the qualification being 'academic' in nature and primarily supporting HE progression, we need a minimum number of HEI letters. **Every letter counts** and will help weight to our case.

We have invited all UK universities (via their Admissions department) to consider supporting our appeal with a letter. We have also requested many HEIs on a 1:1 basis to consider supporting this.

Unfortunately institutions that teach the same BTEC qualification cannot provide a letter of support (according to DfE criteria), which rules out most FE colleges with HE provision.

If your HEI is interested, please contact ria.Bhatta@pearson.com to arrange for a bespoke template to sent for review/completion.

Absolute deadline for us to receive letters is **7 July 2022**. Letters will only be shared with the DfE (not published on the website).



HEPI publication: *Holding talent back?*


Publication on 'What is Next for the Future of Level 3?'

Foreword by David Willetts, includes essays by 10 other contributors.

Focus on potential impact of defunding many BTEC/Applied General type qualifications at Level 3.

Features a range of different perspectives including student, FE, school, university.

Link to [report](#).



Q&A