

**AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)**

**TRAINING AND EDUCATION GROUP (TEG)**

**List of action points from 5th meeting held on 26/03/10 at Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.**

List of group members in attendance:

- Alastair Mitchell – HSE (AM)- Chair
- Nick Abbey – Askham Bryan College (NA)
- Michael Britten – National Farmers Union (MB)
- Charlie Clutterbuck – Unite, the Union (CC)
- David Coackley – HSE (DC)
- James Eckley – National Federation of Young Farmer’s Clubs (JE)
- Martin Grantley Smith – Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (MGS)
- David Leavesley – IOSH Rural Industries Group (DL)
- Chris Muir – Askham Bryan College (CM)
- Alan Plom – HSE – Secretary (AP)

Apologies:

- Laura Biddick-Bray – Lantra Sector Skills Council (LB)
- Neil Catton – Gs Marketing (NC)
- Suzie Cave – NPTC City and Guilds (SC)

<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>Key Points and Actions</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1. Introduction	The Chair welcomed members to the fifth meeting of the group.	
2.Membership of the TEG	<p>A number of new members or their deputies were attending the TEG for the first time.</p> <p>(i) David Leavesley had been appointed to the TEG from IOSH Rural Industries Group.;</p> <p>(ii) Tim Englefield had been unable to attend for Landex but Tim had arranged for Nick Abbey and Chris Muir from Askham Bryan College to attend on his behalf;</p> <p>(iii) Martin Grantley Smith from the Agriculture and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB) attended following an approach from AM, and</p> <p>(iv) David Coackley, Principal Inspector, Head of HSE’s Agriculture and Food Sector, Health, Education and Employment team.</p> <p>The chair reported that David Owen had left Lantra Awards and therefore would no longer be attending TEG meetings. Lantra Awards had not appointed a replacement for David, but they had been informed about the important work of the group and</p>	

	encouraged to nominate a replacement.	
3. Seminar workstream		
3.1 Feedback from the VQ seminar held on 14/10/09	Unfortunately the TEG members from awarding bodies Lantra Awards and City and Guilds NPTC were not able to attend the meeting. Consequently, it was not possible to evaluate the success of the autumn seminar in terms of uptake of VQs from seminar attendees. AM will chase up with both awarding bodies and report back at the next meeting	AM
3.3. Seminar – future events	Members agreed that any decisions on holding further seminar type events should be put on holding pending feedback.	
4. Incentives workstream		
4.1 Incentives – ETI and retail/supply chain	(i) The chair informed members that Graeme Walker (GW), HSE Head of Sector, had delivered a presentation at a suppliers conference organised by Asda. Although many of the delegates were not from agriculture/horticulture, GW did establish contact with a number of fresh produce suppliers and there was likely to be an opportunity to engage with other relevant suppliers at future Asda events. (ii) CC reported on progress with an ethical trading code adopted by Tesco, Waitrose, Co-op and M&S. This is based on a very extensive set of questions. It can be viewed at <a href="http://www.ethicalgrower.org.uk">www.ethicalgrower.org.uk</a> . AM agreed to look at the health & safety elements contained within it and to approach the authors of the code (Impactt Ltd) if necessary on any training/competence/VQs issues. Members agreed that there could be a link made between compliance with this code and recognition advocated by the Agri Skills Forum.	AM/CC
4.2 Incentives – Farm assurance schemes	Members agreed that a fresh approach should be made to the various farm/crop/livestock assurance schemes to incorporate the VQs. The chair reminded members that previous attempts had been unsuccessful. Members thought this area was worth pursuing once again given the link to increasing professionalism, up-skilling and the Agri Skills agenda, as reported by MB (see below).	AM
4.3 Incentives – Lantra SSC	LB had confirmed that health & safety had been raised at a meeting of Industry Partnership Managers. However, some members reported that this was still not always a standing item on the	AM/LB

	agenda at some industry groups.	
4.4 Incentives – National Occupational Standards	VQs should be a key component of the core National Occupational Standards (NOS). AM gave feedback from LB confirming that work was still in progress on the health and safety NOS units but the revised versions were likely to include most of the learning outcomes from the level 2 VQ.	AM/LB
4.5 Incentives – Skills Forum	MB updated members on what had been discussed at the NFU led Agri Skills Forum and meetings with the Defra Minister, Hilary Benn. The strategy to develop and promote professionalism in farming through training, skills recognition and CPD had now been launched. The issue of funding from RDAs had been raised with Mr Benn but to date no feedback had been received from the Minister. MB confirmed that the forum would create two working groups tasked with: (i) looking at promoting the skills strategy and (ii) looking at CPD schemes for the industry. AM updated the group with news that the Poultry Industry CPD Scheme had been receptive to an approach on inclusion of VQs and the group would be kept informed of developments.	AM/MB/LB
4.6 Incentives - AHDB	AP raised the issue of potential support from the commodity Boards under the AHDB. The Potato Board has worked with HSE last year to produce a multi-lingual interactive training DVD. This was partly funded by the NFU. The Board were sending to every potato grower. AP thought it could be adapted to provide generic induction and management training and might also be suitable to help individuals prepare for VQs. AP wondered if a similar approach could be made to the other Boards. MGS indicated that the AHDB is still defining its role, but their function is more about strategic policy, rather than providing training. However, this could involve promoting training along the lines of “business improvement” and identifying any gaps in knowledge. The AHDB is largely industry driven and responds to the directions given by the NFU. MGS advised that the commodity Boards should be approached on an individual basis rather than through the AHDB to see if they might be willing and able to assist in some way.	AM/AP
5.1 College uptake of VQs	AM informed members that about 800 registrations for the period 01/01/09 to 31/12/09 had been received, the vast majority of these were students at land based colleges.	

5.2 College uptake – learning materials	The chair informed members that work was on-going with the Land Based Colleges National Consortium (LBCNC) to facilitate development of learning materials. It had now been agreed by LBCNC to develop the draft materials prepared by AM for launch on-line in the summer of 2010. AM also confirmed that HSE was planning to develop a webpage dedicated to VQs which would signpost visitors to other sites for information.	AM
5.3 College uptake – funding	<p>(i) Some serious concerns were expressed over lack of funding for land based colleges and in particular the potential impact of this with regard to the uptake of VQs through the college network. The full impact of these changes had yet to be established but the chair expressed concerns that the number of student registrations for VQs could be severely compromised. These problems were reiterated by NA and CM.</p> <p>(ii) It was suggested that more could be done to encourage sponsorship of VQs from large companies such as machinery manufacturers or dealers. The way forward might be for colleges to explore opportunities with any of their existing contacts.</p> <p>(iii) AP informed the Group about an event being organised by the AEA on 15 July (venue TBA). This was to enable manufacturers and dealers to meet with representatives of Colleges to discuss their respective needs. It was hoped that HSE and IAgRE (the professional body for ag technicians and engineers) would also be involved. This would be an opportunity to promote the VQs.</p> <p>(iv) AP also mentioned the proposed ‘updating workshop’ he was organising for College machinery lecturers, later in 2010.</p>	AM
5.4 College uptake - Promotional Work	The chair reported on a recent series of farm safety talks delivered to students at Walford and North Shrops College. It was hoped that some publicity, linked to the “Make the promise campaign” might follow.	AM
6.1 Funding - Government policy	Members agreed that there appeared to be much uncertainty over funding due to the forthcoming general election. AP mentioned the ‘Focus on Forestry First’ training initiative announced recently by the Welsh Assembly Government. They were providing £1m funding for training in the forestry sector in Wales. This was intended for technical training as well as improving management skills. The coordinators of the scheme had agreed that it might be possible to use some of this money to develop VQs for this sector. AM to attend the	AM

	official launch in April.	
6.2 Funding - Regional charitable trusts	No feedback in this area as the representatives from the awarding bodies were not in attendance at the meeting.	DO/PC/AM
7 Other matters		
7.1 Other matters – Fresh start	The chair confirmed that a further approach had been made to the Fresh Start Initiative - Alison Rickett, National Project Manager. There is a proposal to hold two national meetings for academy co-ordinators in Spring 2010 (one north, one south) – opportunity to give a presentation on the VQ work.	AM
7.2 Other matters- care and maintenance	AM informed the group that “care and maintenance” work with awarding bodies had continued in order to ensure that the VQs remained current and fit for purpose to comply with educational requirements.	AM/SC/DO
7.3 Other matters – International work	MB mentioned the European Safety Agency’s forthcoming campaign on maintenance. This will run for the next 2 years. AP reported that the campaign is aimed at reducing accidents <i>during</i> maintenance. HSE’s Manufacturing Sector are taking the lead for HSE as agriculture was not seen to be the main industry to be targeted by the campaign. However, arrangements are in hand for any issues relating to agriculture to be dealt with by Alan’s Agriculture Safety Team.	AP

### Notes

The four work areas or workstreams proposed at the last full AIAC meeting (11/11/08) as providing a steer for the work of the TEG and formally agreed by TEG members at the January 2009 meeting were as follows:

(I) VQ work should focus specifically on working with some of the larger farming organisations or groups who may be more receptive to training - proposal to identify and target these organisations. This is known as the seminar workstream.

(ii) A renewed effort should be made to identify "drivers for uptake" and other incentives given that previous attempts have had limited success - proposal to identify incentives for farmers and workers to undertake VQs. This is known as the incentives workstream

(iii) VQs should be pursued more vigorously through the agricultural college network to facilitate greater uptake. This is known as the College workstream

(iv) More should be done to explore potential for funding through the Regional Development Agencies in England, and their counterparts in Wales and Scotland (and other funding streams). This is known as the funding workstream

**Date of next meeting:** date and venue to be confirmed