

# Response to consultation regarding exam dates for 2025-2026

## Technical Qualifications

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For external use.



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## **1. Introduction to document**

We recently communicated our draft exam dates for Technical Qualifications in academic year 2025-2026, requesting feedback from centres.

Some common themes and questions emerged within the feedback. Please find below our response to these common questions.

## 2. Consultation feedback regarding exam dates – Spring series

### 2.1. Across multiple Technical Qualifications

**Consultation feedback:** *The Spring series exam date should be pushed back to between 16-18 March.*

**Action:** No changes made.

**Rationale:** The dates for the Spring exam series are carefully selected to ensure sufficient time for the return of exam scripts and marking, in order to ensure timely release of student results.

While we appreciate that moving exams back would permit more time to deliver content ahead of the exam, a few extra days would likely not be substantial enough to make a big difference to the content which could be delivered in that time. We must also factor in our timescales to enable marking and subsequent awarding processes to take place, to release student results in a timely manner.

### 2.2. Land and Wildlife

**Consultation feedback:** *Exam dates for 0173-509, 0173-511, and 0173-513 should align, as these are three pathways of the Land and Wildlife Technical Qualification, and the three pathways have some shared content.*

**Action:** 0173-509 and 0173-511 exams have been moved to the afternoon of 16 March, so they are on the same day and time as 0173-513.

**Rationale:** Changes made in line with centre feedback.

**Consultation feedback:** *0173-501 should be scheduled for later in the series, to allow further time to deliver content.*

**Action:** No changes made.

**Rationale:** This exam has been scheduled at the same point in March for a number of years. There is currently not enough evidence that this timing is problematic to justify a change of date.

## 2.3. Building Services Engineering

**Consultation feedback:** *8202-531 is scheduled for a Friday afternoon, which causes delays to posting scripts.*

**Action:** No changes made.

**Rationale:** Exam materials should be posted on the same day as the exam. Where this is not possible, they should be posted immediately the following day. As this relates to business days, a centre can post on the following Monday morning for Friday exams if needed.

### **3. Consultation feedback regarding exam dates – Summer series**

#### **3.1. Across multiple Technical Qualifications**

**Action:** The 0175-521, 6002-505, and 8202-520 exams have been moved from the morning to the afternoon of 15 June, and the 7906-501 exam has been moved from 15 June to the morning of 19 June.

**Rationale:** These changes were made due to a clash with A Level Chemistry.

#### **3.2. Animal Care Management**

**Consultation feedback:** *The 0172-537 exam is on the first day back after half term, and should be moved.*

**Action:** The 0172-537 exam has been moved from 01 June to the morning of 04 June.

**Rationale:** Change made in line with centre feedback.

**Consultation feedback:** *The 0172-539 exam clashes with 0172-531.*

**Action:** The 0172-539 exam has been moved from the morning to the afternoon of 11 June.

**Rationale:** Change made in line with centre feedback.

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