

## Examiner's report

### Qualifications Framework

#### Stage 2: Regulating Markets Professional Interview

#### Professional Interview Examiner's Report September 2024

##### **General Feedback:**

A total of ten candidates attempted the regulating markets professional interview during this round, achieving between 43 and 83%, so all passed.

A single scenario was used for this round, which focussed on data collection, information and intelligence development, followed by options for tactical intervention in the second-hand product market, as well as metrics for determining whether such interventions can be considered successful. Obviously, candidates had to consider safety but also the range of regulatory requirements which must be considered by this market sector. Market and regulatory risk both required a full discursive consideration.

The following information was given in previous reports, but is worth re-stating for candidates attempting this examination in future:

The examination is primarily a verbal problem-solving exercise under examination conditions, which requires the candidate to consider a brief regulatory scenario which they may encounter during their daily work and determine what actions could arise out of it.

Ten minutes reading and note taking time provides the candidate with the opportunity to consider this and then the questions are used to guide the discussion. Often candidates provide discussion of questions not yet asked, but this can be considered a good thing as it demonstrates that they require no prompting to consider the holistic regulatory response. There are no right or wrong answers, just justifiable regulatory responses to the scenario and question. Consideration of the optimum response is obviously part of the process, and where candidates considered this in the context of their own authority this was marked appropriately.

As in previous examination rounds, questions are written to avoid focus on the technical detail of regulation and therefore specialist study in product safety, food or feed does not offer advantage if a question is asked relating to past study. Where knowledge is required of specialism this is provided within the training delivery or the online study materials.

All questions require a consideration of the following elements:

1. What is the problem, and what does a successful response look like?
2. How serious is the problem, and what priority should a trading standards service give it in the scheme of tasking work?
3. This will generally lead to some form of risk analysis and possibly a strategy to address this.
4. Regulatory action will be a risk management action, designed to eliminate, mitigate or warn.
5. There are usually a range of regulatory tactics which can be used to manage the risk, in the immediate, medium and long terms.
6. Metrics for assessing the change in risk following regulatory action should be capable of determination.
7. Are there any future actions in relation to other regulators or the rest of the market. Has what been done within the scenario inform current and future market risk?

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**Example Scenario:**

This scenario was very general, but it required consideration in accordance with this generalised methodology. As before, the key to doing well in this exam is experience, and the application of the learning which is conducted in the classroom or online to the real-world situations which trading standards professionals encounter daily. Those candidates with the most practical experience tended to do best in the examination, and the complementary activities of portfolio building also assists with this.

As with other examination rounds, candidates were all very professional in their approach and clearly understand the expectations of the examination and approach it in a positive way.