

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Professional Interviews Regulating Markets October 2020

Only three candidates attempted the Regulating Markets professional interview this round, and I am pleased to report that all passed with marks of between 57.5% to 65%. Again, there were a total of four questions set, but obviously only three of these were used.

It is apparent that many students had deferred entry to the exam due to the particular challenges of developing the knowledge and competence for what is in essence, a professional practice examination, during the restrictions and limitations on activities during the current pandemic. Current training cohorts indicate that there is the potential for a significant number of candidates to be sitting the examination during the next round.

The interviews were conducted online, with the relevant controls for exam conditions as far as were possible, but obviously there has to be an element of trust in a professional examination which is delivered remotely.

As previously stated, candidates were given a regulatory scenario with ten minutes to read it and make notes before being asked the questions in turn. The entire interview was recorded on the MS Teams platform to allow later viewing, marking and moderation.

As with the previous examination, the scenarios were drawn from a wide range of trading standards regulatory issues, so as not to disadvantage candidates following any particular route through the qualifications system. Answers focussed on problem solving and regulatory response to particular issues rather than a technical knowledge of the legal requirements.

Overall answers to the questions posed demonstrated the relevant skills and application of the knowledge that underpinned regulatory practice. Since only one candidate attempted each scenario there is no basis to compare performance and commenting on approaches would single out individuals.

It is clear that candidates paid particular attention to risk assessment, either for product safety or for the regulatory process and this was of benefit to all of them in answering the questions. The standard was generally good, with evidence of adequate preparation via the online training delivery and supporting materials, with all those who entered the exam achieving a clear pass.