

Trading Standards Officer

What does a TSO of the future look like?

The profession is changing and will continue to change as we look to the future.

The provision of Trading Standards Services across the UK is becoming more diverse.

We now see:

- Shared services
- Multi-disciplinary services
- Private sector led services

The functionality of each service is also as varied as the number of local authority Trading Standards Services. CTSI recognised the changed and changing face of the profession and in May 2015 produced the '*Vision for Trading Standards.*'

As part of the vision for a sustainable profession for the future we are considering all the services provided in support of the profession to ensure it is fit for purpose and the best it can be.

One key area relates to our professional qualifications. With falling candidate numbers and increasing costs it is vital that our framework not only effectively supports the needs of employers, individuals and the profession but does so in a cost effective way.

In order to do this, we consider it essential to review the qualifications framework by starting with the fundamental question as to what a TSO of the future is going to look like. It is only by addressing this now that we can effectively plan for the future provision of a suitable qualification and, in turn, other services such as training and continuous personal professional development.

We recognise that some work has already been completed in this area and we will draw on this to put forward for discussion what we consider to be the essential skills, knowledge and behaviour requirements for a TSO of the future. We will utilise the TSQF focus group to coordinate and communicate our work as we go forward. (A list of representatives is attached for your information.) We would encourage you to share your views with CTSI, either via your Focus Group representative or directly by emailing qualifications@tsi.org.uk.

We anticipate that initial proposals will be produced after the Focus Group in January 2016 with final options to be discussed by Council at their spring meeting in April.

TSQF focus group representatives:

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| Dave Hough | CEnTSA |
| Guy Pratt | EETSA / ACTSO |
| Su Holmes | LOTSAs |
| Andy Hayward | North East |
| Lorraine Porter | Northern Ireland |
| David Templeton | Scotland |
| Jacky Kingman | SWERCOTS |
| Mark Keal | TSEM |
| David Scott | TSNW |
| Gina Green | TSSE |
| Lucas Williams | Wales |
| Jo Boutflower | YAHCOTS |
| Nigel Farmer | Qualifications and Awards Board |
| Phil Owen | CTSI c/o qualifications@tsi.org.uk |

