

Neil O'Brien MP
Member of Parliament for
Harborough, Oadby and Wigston
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

15 December 2025

Sent by email only to:
neil.obrien.mp@parliament.uk

Ref: PQ88782

Dear Mr O'Brien,

Re: PQ88782 To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people have been employed by (a) OFSTED, (b) OFQUAL and (c) the Office for Students in each year since 2005.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Education), Olivia Bailey, has asked Ofqual to respond directly to your recent Parliamentary Question. A copy of this response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ofqual was established in April 2010 under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Headcount figures from 2011 onwards are summarised below:

March of each year - Headcount (Not including non-payroll staff) *														
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
161	165	150	192	184	197	205	208	217	233	260	292	350	357	361

March of each year - Headcount (Including non-payroll staff) *														
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
172	179	176	233	207	210	213	221	228	240	268	308	357	362	363

March of each year – Full Time Equivalent Staff (including non-payroll staff)*														
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
158	165	148	189	188	184	189	183	192**	216**	259	298	345	350	351

*Non-payroll relates to agency staff, contractors etc

** 2019 and 2020 FTE figures represent average FTE for the year to 31 March.

In the 10 years between March 2015 and March 2025 the number of awarding organisations regulated by Ofqual increased from 160 to 255, and from 2019 onwards, headcount was significantly impacted by Ofqual's role in the regulation of apprenticeship End Point Assessments.

Headcount numbers have reduced since March 2025, with the latest published figures (October 2025) being 351 excluding non-payroll staff, 352 including non-payroll staff and total Full Time Equivalent staff of 338, a reduction of 3.7% since 31 March.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ian Bauckham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Sir Ian Bauckham CBE

Chief Regulator, Ofqual