

Market engagement event

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

External Moderation Provider

10 November 2021

Polite notice: during the event please ensure you are on mute, and that your camera is turned off. Thank you.

NOTE: information provided in this presentation is tentative only not binding and subject to confirmation in the invitation to tender.



Department
for Education

AGENDA

NPQs – overview

External moderation provider – purpose

Key features of role

How this role supports the NPQ assessment process

Delivery timelines and managing concerns

Appeals and conflicts of interest

Next steps – timings for the procurement process and budget information

**Part 1:
Presentation**

Questions/issues/comments and questionnaire

**Part 2:
Questions**



Department
for Education

QUESTIONS

We will be accepting questions via the chat function and will aim to answer as many of these as we can during today's session.

We will then look to provide answers to any remaining questions and those received by email via the DfE eTendering portal (Jaggaer).

A recording of this session will also be made available via Jaggaer.

If you wish to email a question after this event, please use the following email address:

NPQ.EXTERNALMODERATION@education.gov.uk



INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Armstrong-Stacey – Deputy Director – Teaching Workforce Directorate – DfE

Richard Atherton – Quality Assurance Officer – Teaching Workforce Directorate – DfE

Korin Wilshaw – Quality Assurance Manager – Teaching Workforce Directorate - DfE



NPQs - OVERVIEW

NPQs – AN OVERVIEW

National professional qualifications are a national, voluntary suite of qualifications, designed to support the professional development of teachers and leaders at all levels.

From autumn 2021, a new and updated suite of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) is available for teachers and leaders who want to develop their knowledge and skills in school leadership and specialist areas of teaching practice.

This includes the addition of three new NPQs in specialist areas of teaching along with reformed leadership NPQs.

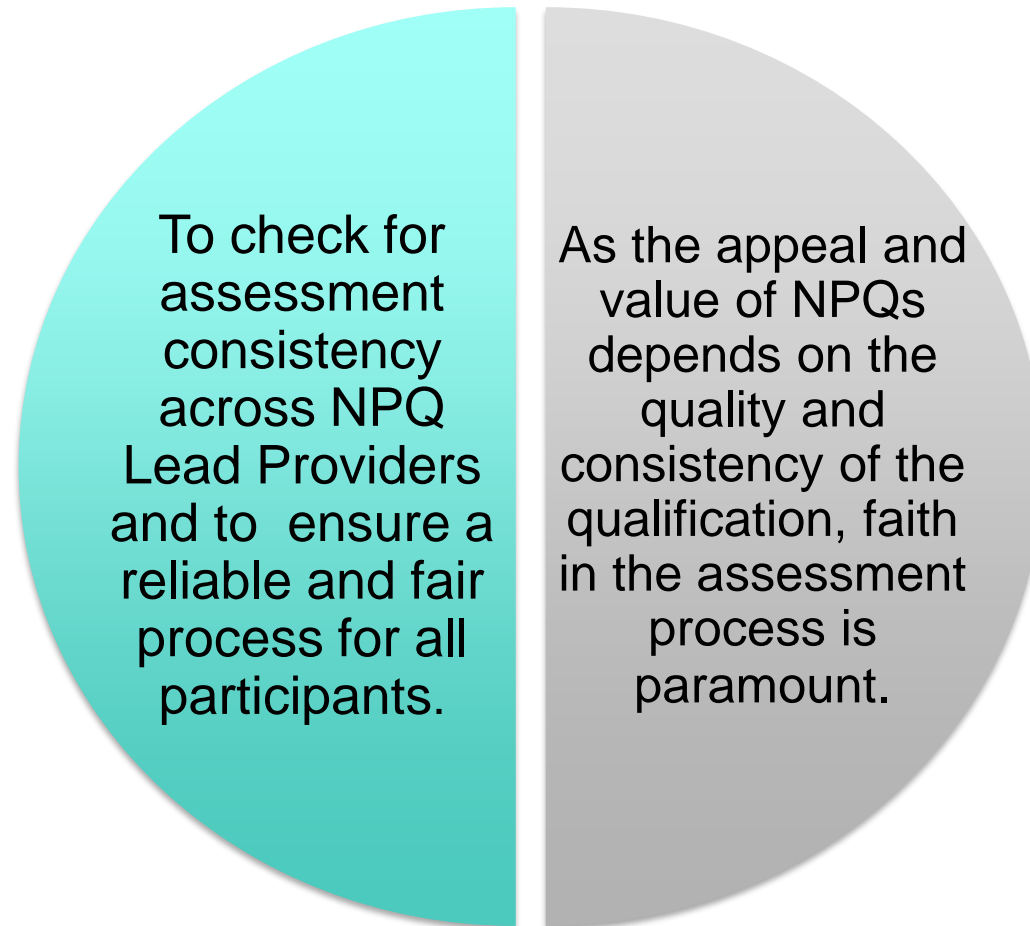
From 2022, a further two NPQs will be available:

- NPQ for Leading Literacy
- NPQ for Early Years Leadership



PURPOSE OF EXTERNAL MODERATION PROVIDER

EXTERNAL MODERATION PROVIDER - PURPOSE



KEY FEATURES OF ROLE

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- ▶ To ensure there is **consistency, fairness and high standards in assessment** established nationally across all approved NPQ Lead Providers delivering the new and updated NPQs.
- ▶ To have a firm understanding of the **various marking approaches** that will be used for summative assessment scripts.
- ▶ Have national oversight of the quality of the **NPQ summative assessment process**, ensuring NPQ Lead Providers use robust systems to ensure their mark schemes are applied rigorously and consistently
- ▶ To report findings following **prescribed assessment windows**.



HOW THIS ROLE SUPPORTS THE NPQ ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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The External Moderation Provider will...

Verify that all NPQ Lead Providers are taking responsibility for designing a specific mark scheme that delineates a pass and a fail mark.

Set out what Quality Assurance checks it will make on NPQ Lead Provider assessment processes, to ensure fairness and consistency across all NPQ Lead Providers.

Where necessary, adapt external moderation approaches, according to the assessment processes used by each Lead Provider.

Put in place robust data management systems that link into the DfE's digital service.

Provide a report to each NPQ Lead Provider at the end of each assessment window setting out any areas of concern, as well as good practice.



DELIVERY TIMELINES AND MANAGING CONCERNS

ASSESSMENT WINDOWS

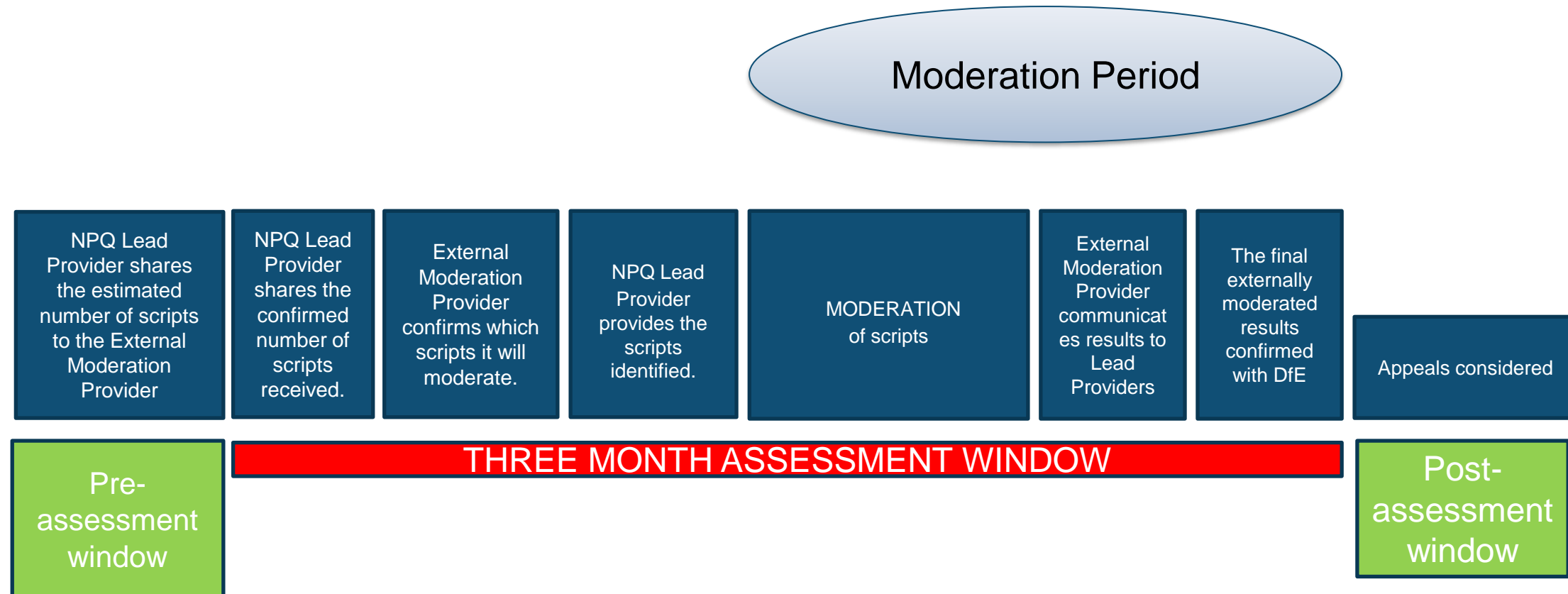
Cohort	Assessment Window
Specialist 1	1 st November 2022– 31 st January 2023* (future years to commence in September)
Specialist 2	1 st February 2023 – 30 th April 2023*
Leadership 1	1 st May 2023 – 31 st July 2023 *
Leadership 2	1 st September 2023 – 30 th November 2023 *

*Excluding weekends and Bank Holidays

The contract will initially be awarded to moderate an expected four assessment window cohorts per academic year over three academic years from November 2022, including from 2023 moderation of the new additional NPQ qualifications that will be introduced from 2022, subject to procurement.



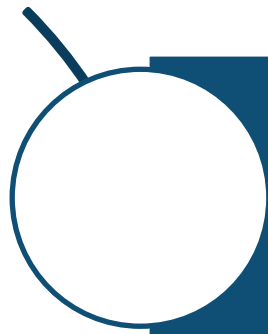
TIMELINE




MANAGING POSSIBLE CONCERNS

The external moderator will confirm the outcome of moderation for all individual scripts it moderates.

In addition if in the process of moderation it identifies potential concerns or areas of weakness in the robustness of summative assessment:



Any wider concerns must be included in the report which is sent to the Lead Providers and the DfE. However, concerns can be reported at any point during the moderation period and the moderator must report any serious or systematic concerns at the earliest opportunity.



It is a matter for the External Moderation Provider to decide on the nature of each concern on an individual basis, thus being able to establish how to escalate each concern appropriately and proportionately.



APPEALS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

APPEALS

- The External Moderation Provider must design a policy for, and operate, a fair and accessible appeals process.
- Individual participants have the right to appeal and reconsideration of marks can only be considered in relation to individual appeals. However, if in the process of considering an appeal that it appears that wider issues are found with a NPQ Lead Provider's assessment practices, the External Moderation Provider is also expected to issue appropriate and constructive advice.
- The appeals process will need to be conducted in line with the External Moderator's policy on appeals to ensure it is fair and consistent and provides confidence that every NPQ Lead Provider and participant will be treated equally.
- The circumstances for what constitutes a valid appeal will also need to be set so there are pre-determined, published criteria that will be applied to all appeals brought to the External Moderation Provider.



CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

To ensure the impartiality of the moderation process we intend to set requirements around managing potential conflicts of interest. These include (but are not limited to):

- ❑ The winning bidder will be required to cease any existing work on NPQs, with any Lead Provider, and which prohibit the External Moderation Provider from working with Lead Providers in relation to any aspect of their summative assessments.
- ❑ The winning bidder shall not commence any new NPQ work with any Lead Provider for the duration of this contract.
- ❑ A breach of such requirements could constitute a material breach with a consequent right of termination by the Authority.

The ITT will confirm details, but may also require bidders to set out how they would manage other potential conflicts of interest, such as:

- ❑ Moderating organisations or candidates that the moderator knows personally or has worked with in a professional development capacity previously.



NEXT STEPS – TIMINGS FOR THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND BUDGET INFORMATION

NEXT STEPS – TIMINGS FOR PROCUREMENT

DATES (TENTATIVE)	ACTIVITY
December 2021	Invitation to Tender process starts
January 2022	Deadline for bids received
February 2022	Standstill period
April 2022	Contract awarded
November 2022	1 st NPQ assessment window



BUDGET

- Because moderation is required for 10% of summative assessments, the majority of the costs for moderation will be determined by the number of participants.
- If the numbers of participants are as expected over the first three years of the new NPQ programme, we estimate that a budget of between £4-6m over a 3 year period may be required.
- Those costs fall within the financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- Availability of this budget is subject to the outcome of business planning following the spending review.



PART TWO – QUESTIONS/ISSUES/ COMMENTS

QUESTIONS/ISSUES/COMMENTS

Questions not answered during this session will be collated, and then made publicly available on the DfE eTendering portal (Jaggaer), as well as there being a recording of this session.

If you wish to submit a question for consideration during this event, please use the chat.

For other questions please email:

NPQ.EXTERNALMODERATION@education.gov.uk

Please note that in line with requirements we will provide the answers to all questions via Jaggaer.



QUESTIONNAIRE

The DfE is very interested in your responses to the questions below.

An email questionnaire will be sent out following this event and we would welcome any feedback in response.

We will ask:

- 1. Are you content that the proposed role will provide the required level of national moderation?**
- 2. Have you any concerns/issues that you wish to raise with regard to the procurement process to be applied?**
- 3. Do you have any comments or related concerns about the conflict of interest issue?**



THANK YOU