

NOS GG – Stakeholder update: Quarter 2 (Sept 2023)

Progress on S&F procurement 23/24

A total of 32 NOS Suites have been commissioned for review/development this year: within occupations ranging from Sales, Electric & Hybrid Vehicle, and Water Treatment Processing and Control to Physical Special Effects and Non-surgical Cosmetic Procedures. The full list of Suites under review is available at Annex 1. NOS developers are now in the process of commencing consultation activities with key stakeholders across the UK.

12 contracts have been issued for NOS that have been identified for translation into Welsh, within roles ranging from Fisheries to Pharmacy Services. Other nation-specific products, including SVQs and Apprenticeships for Northern Ireland, have also been commissioned.

NOS Database update

The new NOS Database is currently in the bedding in phase: identified functional changes have now been made, including the issues identified when using the NOS Search function. In addition, all identified changes have been made to the developer and administration portal. There remains further work to cleanse some of the data and ensure that searches return the most recent versions of NOS. This work has already commenced and will be prioritised by SDS over coming weeks. Identification of a new hosting solution for the NOS Database is now underway, being overseen by SDS Procurement.

Any further issues either to functionality or data, should be reported to SDS directly via the following email address: nos@sds.co.uk

LMI workshop findings

NOS GG members met for a workshop recently to look at the current process map for the inclusion and use of LMI in the NOS system. Members recognised there is lots of good practice already, however, commitments have been made in the NOS Strategy and the accompanying 5-year plan to improve on what is there. NOS GG identified the pros and cons of the current LMI approach, and identified key areas to improve, these included upgrading the triangulation of LMI evidence from a range of sources and the need to obtain a more comprehensive evidence base for NOS developments, to increase credibility in the demand statement process. NOS GG agreed that a more detailed demand statement template is required, with mandatory new fields including a more robust rationale. The three key stages on generating and utilising LMI were identified:

- The triangulation of LMI (July to September).
- The demand statement (October to December).
- The tendering process (January to March).

The aim is for NOS GG/S&FP to agree 2024/25 NOS priorities before the end of March 2024. Further discussion will be required in due course, on the prioritisation for NOS products, informed in part by the pilot activities identified below.

Pilot activities

Following on from the LMI workshop, it was agreed that the NOS GG should commission several pieces of work this autumn, to improve the evidence base:

- An impartial summary of existing data and messages from high level “top down” LMI that is UK-wide, national, and regional
- A one-off sector-wide activity to gather information on Sectoral Occupational Priorities (SOPs)
- A pilot by Lantra and Enginuity, will be undertaken using existing Scottish apprenticeships standards as a basis for reviewing the relevant NOS. The two bodies will be asked to chronicle their approach and findings, and to provide a template on how this may also work for other sectors in future.

An update on all pilot activities will be provided in the next quarterly newsletter.

A new draft template/rationale for the NOS demand statement will also be developed and circulated for immediate pilot usage this autumn; feedback will be invited from current suppliers. New fields will be added to the template document to generate more information on the NOS Suites in question, the occupations they underpin, and the source of evidence of demand from employers and other stakeholders within the sector.

Welsh Language NOS

The Welsh Govt has recently commissioned Merfyn Morgan, Welsh Language NOS consultant, to establish any gaps in the current Welsh NOS provision, and to consider the translation of NOS for specific occupations. Merfyn and officials have been working closely with Qualifications Wales; gaps have been identified and translation costs and priorities are being determined. Officials and Merfyn will attend a meeting with the Qualifications Wales Welsh Language Awarding Body Group at the end of October, to promote the availability of Welsh NOS and benefits of using Welsh NOS when developing Welsh-medium qualifications, as an alternative to directly translating the English qualifications. Welsh NOS offer accurate and consistent translations of sector specific technical terminology. Using Welsh NOS can avoid repetition/duplication of translation efforts and ensure the content of Welsh-medium qualifications are of a high quality.

Pan/Multi sector NOS

Work has been progressing on the identification of pan/multi sector NOS and analysis has been undertaken on NOS units which are deemed to be duplicates/near duplicates.

An updated NOS GG position statement can be found at Annex 2, which provides further information and proposed next steps.

Annex 1 - NOS Development 2023/2024

Cluster	NOS Suite	Activity Type	Supplier
Automotive	Electric & Hybrid Vehicle	Review	IMI
Beauty	Non-surgical Cosmetic Procedures	New	SkillsActive
Creative	VFX	Review	ScreenSkills
	Physical Special Effects	Review	
	Creative Media Generic	Review	
	Radio and Audio Content Creation	Review	
	Production Workflow	Welsh Translation	ScreenSkills
	Live Events & Promotions	Welsh Translation	
	Set Crafts	Welsh Translation	
Digital	IT (Database design and implementation)	New	ODAG
	IT support (service management and delivery)	Review	
	IT (Data Science)	Review	
	IT (Network Engineering)	Review	
	IT (Solution development)	Review	
	IT (Cloud engineering)	New	
Electrical	Installation and maintenance of battery storage systems	New	BSE Skills
Engineering	Installation & Commissioning Suite 3	Review	Enginuity
	Engineering Toolmaking Suite 3	Review	
	Engineering Maintenance and Installation Suite 2	Review	
	Engineering Technical Support Suite 2	Review	
	Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering Suite 2	Review	
	Performing Engineering Operations Suite 2	Review	
	Fabrication and Welding 2016/17 Suite 2 & 3	Review (NOS number restricted to 50)	
Energy	Smart metering	Review	Energy & Utility Skills
	Wind Turbine	Review	
	Water Fittings Regulations/Byelaws Enforcement	Review	
	Treatment Processing and Control in the Water Industry	Review	
	Multi Utility Network Construction	Review	
	Water Network Construction	Welsh Translation	
Generic	Energy Efficiency Assessment & Advice	Review	II Aspire
Health	Providing Independent Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advice and Advocacy Part 1	Welsh Translation	Workforce Development Trust
	Providing Independent Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advice and Advocacy Part 2	Welsh Translation	
	Pharmacy Services	Welsh Translation	

Land-based	Treework	Review	Lantra
	Incident Management in Land-based Sector: Part 1	Welsh Translation	
	Fisheries Management: Part 1	Welsh Translation	
	Fisheries Management: Part 2	Welsh Translation	
	Incident Management in Land-based Sector: Part 2	Welsh Translation	
Manufacturing	Electrical Battery Manufacture	New	Cogent
Pan/Multi-sector	Sales	Review	Instructus
	Risk Management	Review	
Rail	Rail Engineering Permanent Way	Review	National Skills Academy for Rail
	Rail Engineering Overhead Line Equipment construction 2013 Suite 2 and 3	Review	
	Rail Engineering Signalling 2015 Suite 2 & 3	Review	
	Rail Engineering Telecoms 2015 Suite 2 & 3	Review	
	Rail Engineering Traction Rolling Stock Suite 2 & 3	Review	
Science	Storage of Hydrogen Product	New	Cogent
	Hydrogen Fuel Cell Manufacturer	New	
	Carbon Capture	New	
	Explosives Substances and Articles	Review	
	Hydrogen Usage	New	



NOS Governance Group Position Statement Pan/Multi Sector NOS

In March the NOS Governance Group (NOS GG) noted the commitment in the [NOS Strategy](#) to establish and publish a set of pan/multi sector NOS and its intention to review and rationalise the number of NOS on the database.

[NOS Governance Group Position Statement Pan/Multi Sector NOS - National Occupational Standards \(ukstandards.org.uk\)](#)

The NOS database has since been analysed to identify duplicates/near duplicates with the following four suites of pan/multi sector NOS:

- Business & Administration
- Leadership & Management
- Learning & Development
- Sales

Consideration has been given on whether to retain, replace or remove the duplicates and consultation has taken place with awarding bodies, qualifications regulators and the standards setting organisations in scope of this exercise.

The NOS GG will shortly be publishing a list of the relevant NOS which are deemed to be duplicates and which will be removed from the NOS database or replaced with pan/multi sector NOS. Stakeholders will be encouraged to consider the impact of this on their products/services.

NOS which are removed from the database will no longer be searchable, however, they will be accessible by NOS administrators, by exception, if required following archiving.

October 2023