



## Advertising Policy

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## SCOPE

1. This policy is to support internal and external customers with guidance when advertising products and services with Smart Awards. This Smart Awards policy, unless otherwise apparent from the context, includes advertising on the Smart Awards website and any of its assets. This policy maps to Ofqual general conditions and SQA Accreditation principles.

## OFQUAL GENERAL CONDITIONS

2. B5.2: An awarding organisation must not (and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that any person connected with it does not) make any statement that would be likely to lead Users of qualifications to believe that a qualification it makes available is a regulated qualification when it is not a regulated qualification.
3. B5.2: An awarding organisation must not (and must take all reasonable steps to ensure that any person connected with it does not) advertise or promote its qualifications in a manner that is likely to be misleading to Users of qualifications.
4. E2.3; An awarding organisation must ensure that each qualification which it makes available, or proposes to make available, has a title which it uses consistently in its advertising and in its communications with Users of qualifications.

## SQA ACCREDITATION PRINCIPLES

5. Principle 2: The awarding body shall ensure it has the necessary resources to effectively carry out its operational functions to meet regulatory requirements.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

6. This policy is for end point assessments offered by Smart Awards. This policy is for employers and Training providers accessing Smart Awards qualifications and related services and all those involved with the delivery and quality assurance of Smart Awards qualifications. Smart Awards has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it. Smart Awards has the day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy and for monitoring its use and effectiveness and dealing with any queries on its interpretation.

R	Responsibilities	The person who actually carries out the process or task. The person is responsible for action/implementation. Responsibilities can be shared											
A	Accountabilities	The person who is ultimately accountable for the process or task being completed and who has the authority to make decisions, yes or no authority and veto power. Responsible person (s) are accountable to this person. Only one A can be assigned to a task											
C	Consulted	The person to be consulted prior to a final decision or action (two-way communication). People who are not directly involved with carrying out the task but are consulted with.											
I	Informed	Anyone whose work depends on the process or task and who has to be updated about the progress after a decision or action has been taken (one-way communication).											
POLICY		BOARD	CEO	MD	OPS DIRECTOR	QUALITY PORTFOLIO MANAGER	STANDARDS COMPLIANCE OFFICER	QUAL ADMIN OFFICER	IT CONSULT	FINANCE AUDITOR	EQA	NOPS BOARD	EMPLOYER TRAINING PROVIDER
Advertising		A	R	R	R	R	R	C	I	I	C	I	R

#### Holiday/Sickness Cover

The MD, CEO and Operations Director cover holiday/sickness and absenteeism for areas where the person is responsible for action/implementation of a task. The MD, CEO and Operations Director hold company wide experience to be able to carry out these tasks and hold no conflicts of interest.

## GENERAL APPROACH

- Smart Awards looks to maximise revenue from advertising and therefore, wherever possible, will advertise its EPA services. Smart Awards accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising out of or in connection to any EPA advertisement.

## PROHIBITED PRODUCTS, SERVICES AND ADVERTISERS

- All advertisers must comply with controls put in place by the ASA (Advertising Standards Authority) which is an independent body set up by the advertising industry to police the rules laid down in advertising codes. The ASA works to ensure that all advertisements are legal, decent, honest and truthful. Smart Awards will advertise and promote the use of its EPA services to its customers in line with the ASA codes of practice.

## STYLE AND CONTENT OF ADVERTISING

- Smart Awards has an open approach to styles of advertising. We will not mislead apprentices, employers, or training providers by misleading advertisement. Smart Awards does not permit advertising which could reasonably be construed as being either:
  - directly or indirectly sexual in nature and/or which features partial or complete nudity and/or which appears to promote or give undue publicity to illegal or inappropriate behaviour or lifestyles.
  - Special or political material which is contentious or which conflicts with the Smart Awards policies, values or statutory obligations (for example, equalities legislation)
- Smart Awards will approach apparent humour in submitted advertising with the utmost caution since humour can sometimes directly or indirectly be seen as mocking specific groups of individuals or potentially poking fun at particular types of individuals or their behaviour or in relation to various situations. However, Smart Awards will permit 'innocent humour', providing Smart Awards considers there is no likely innuendo or subtext which might cause offence.
- Where an image or text is used that makes any individual(s) recognizable, consent must be obtained from those individuals who must also understand that they may withdraw their consent at any time

## REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

- This policy is reviewed and revised annually in response to feedback, changes in legislation and guidance from the regulators, SQA Accreditation or Ofqual.

## PROCESS FOR LEAD TRAINING PROVIDER ADVERTISEMENT

Process Step Description	Process	Person Responsibility	Organisation Responsibility
Submit marketing brief for approval	Process	Employer and Training provider Manager	Employer and Training provider
Review marketing content	Process	MD	Smart Awards
Approve or do not approve marketing content	Decision	MD holds responsibility for making corporate decisions	Smart Awards
Communicate outcome to Lead Training provider	Process	MD	Smart Awards
Review Employer & Training provider website annually	Process	EQA	Smart Awards
Stop	End	MD	Smart Awards