



NVQ Providers Association
Design Works
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4th February 2016

David Noble - Chief Executive,
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply,
Easton House, Easton on the Hill,
Stamford,
PE9 3NZ

Dear David

DEVELOPMENT & ACCREDITATION OF VOCATIONAL PROCUREMENT DIPLOMAS

Members of the CIPS Educational Development department have consistently said that they would support the vocational route to MCIPS provided the Standards meet with the Institute's requirements.

A group of subject matter experts have concluded a herculean process and produced a new set of Standards (Procurement Diplomas) with the help of two Awarding Bodies and had them approved by OFQUAL. At the start of the process we tried to get CIPS involved with the development of the qualifications so that we could create a set of qualifications that not only met the needs of students but also maintained the high standards that CIPS is synonymous with, The Educational Development declined this offer, as it was a conflict of interest?

The new Procurement Diplomas went through the CIPS accreditation process and were subsequently rejected. We do not think that this process was conducted in a fair and transparent manner and we feel it breached the spirit of CIPS' Royal Charter. As CIPS members we would be grateful if you could provide us with the answers to the questions below:-

1. Why did CIPS refuse to look at the qualifications until they had gone through the OFQUAL process?
2. Why was the accreditation process changed halfway through the application to a Hybrid system?
3. Why did CIPS not publish the hybrid accreditation process that the Diplomas were measured against?
4. Why did CIPS not publish full results of the mapping/accreditation process and only give brief examples of where the standards were not met?
5. Why were no subject matter experts allowed into the meeting regarding the results of the accreditation process? CIPS insisted that the room was not big enough even though the awarding bodies offered to cover the cost of a larger room? The awarding bodies, both Gateway Qualifications and ABC Awards had requested a subject matter expert of their choosing attend.
6. Why did CIPS insist that once the Diplomas have failed the 'hybrid' accreditation that another application would not be considered and their decision was final?

7. What are CIPS going to do to help the thousands of learners now disenfranchised by the disappearance of the vocational route to MCIPS?
8. Why was the ending the vocational route not put out to members for consultation?
9. Why will CIPS not meet with the key NVQ providers (also MCIPS members) to have an open dialogue about the situation?

We could debate the pros and cons of examination at length. Put simply we have worked with many excellent students who by choice would not have gone down the CIPS examination route

In our opinion CIPS should be using every available method to improve procurement; a vocational route is a very effective tool for doing this and will reach a wider audience than is currently catered for.

We feel passionately about vocational qualifications as a means to educate students and will continue to campaign for it to be included as a means of CIPS membership.

A timely response to this letter would be very much appreciated.

Please find my contact details below and I am more than happy to travel to you to discuss this matter if you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

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