Ofqual External Quality Assurance

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Vocational Technical Qualifications

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Ofqual, regulation and the landscape

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A regulator with 5 objectives

- Secure and maintain qualification standards

- Promote reliable and consistent national/ early years foundation stage assessments

- **Promote public confidence**

- Promote awareness

- Secure efficiency

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4.9M **GCSEs**

4.4M **Other vocational & technical qualifications**

1.9M **AS & A levels**

780K **Functional skills qualifications**

620K **Other general qualifications**

425K **ESOL/SELT**

395K **Tech awards**

230K **Applied generals**

160K **Tech levels**

135K **Technical certificates**

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342 GCSEs

14,083 **Other vocational & technical qualifications**

503 **AS & A levels**

180 **Functional skills qualifications**

250 **Other general qualifications**

202 **Applied generals**

443 **Tech levels**

299 **ESOL/SELT**

126 **Tech awards**

248 **Technical certificates**

Ofqual and Apprenticeship reforms

Strategic partner

Regulator

EQA provider

- Institute
- Employer led
- Professional body
- Ofqual
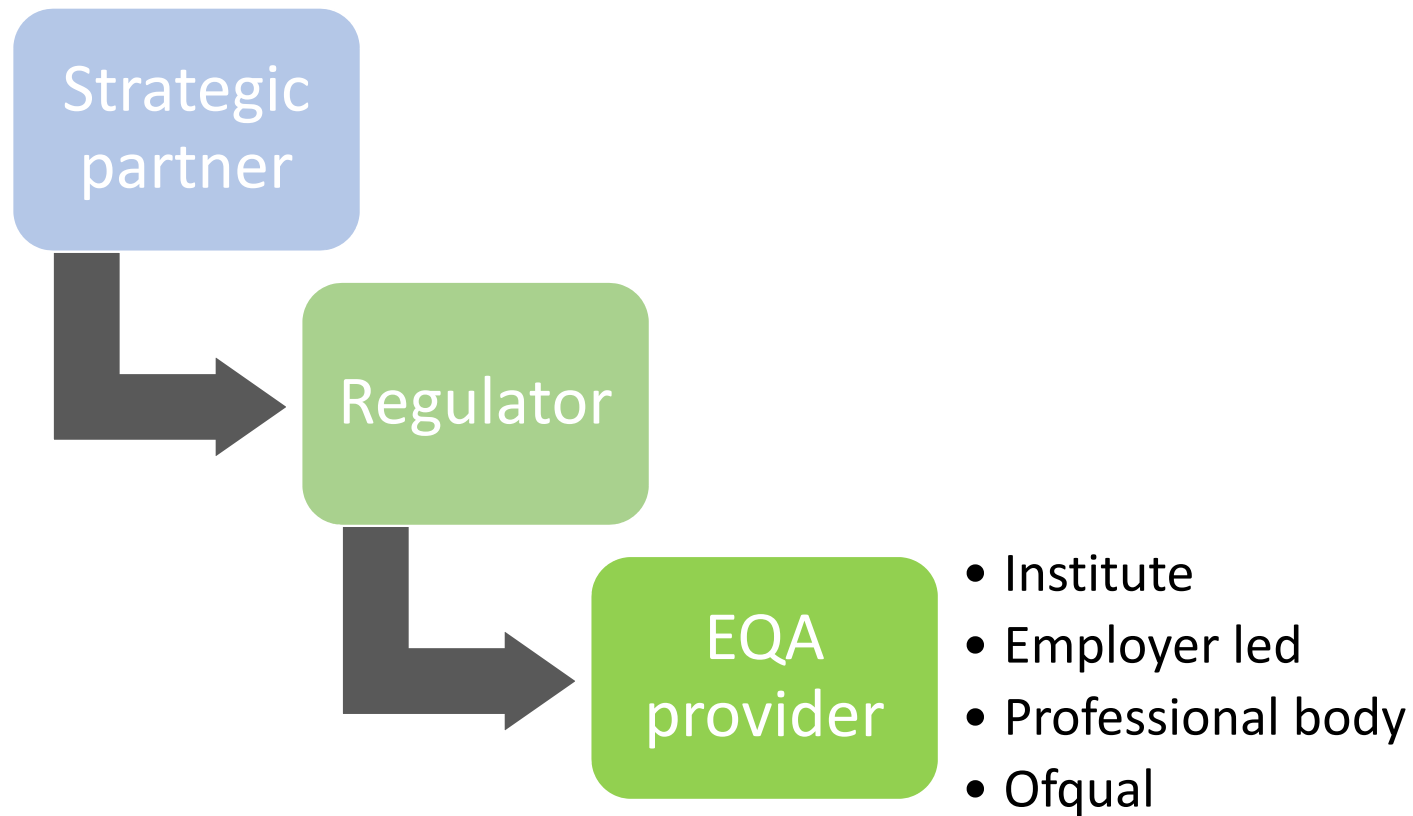
Apprenticeship landscape

c544
Projected
total of
standards
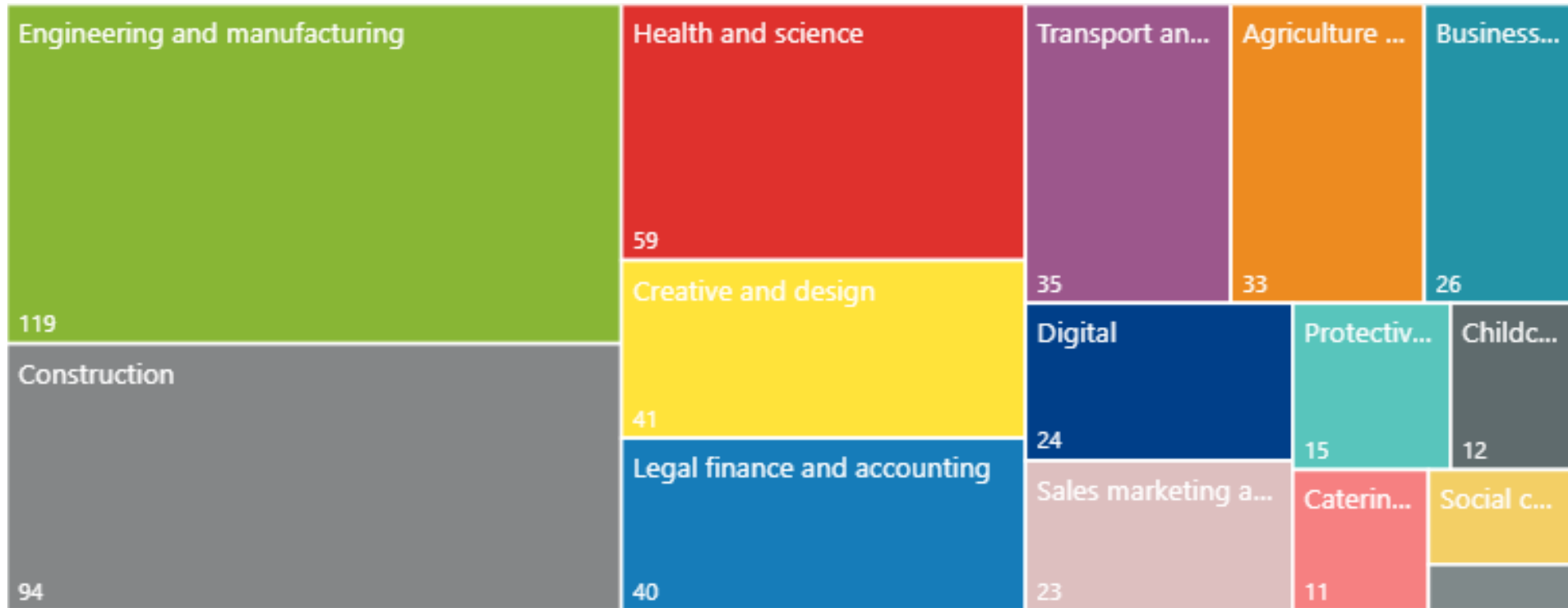
Apprenticeship landscape

c544
Projected
total of
standards

94
Ofqual has
accepted or
is working
towards
accepting
for EQA
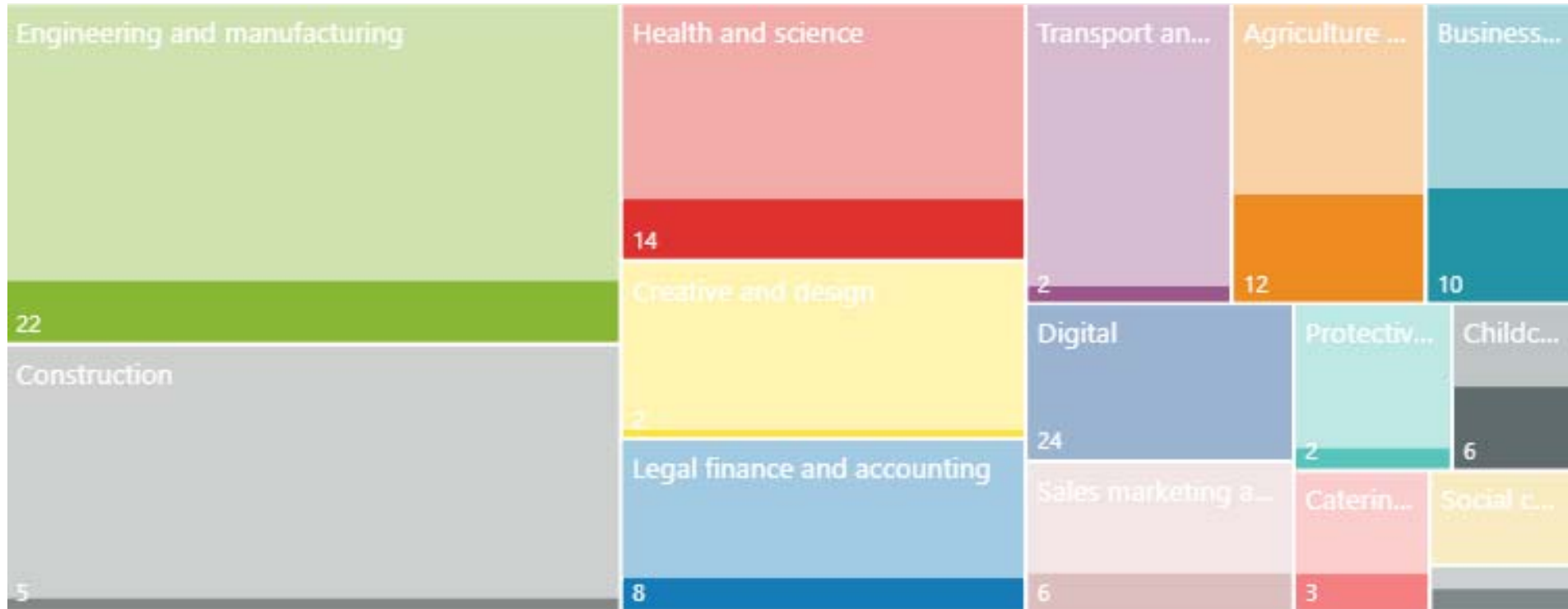
EPAs from approved standards

Currently a potential **572** EPAs from approved Standards

Childcare and... 18 (3.1%)
Social care 31 (5.4%)
Transport and logistics 37 (6.5%)
Construction 38 (6.6%)
Digital 44 (7.7%)
Health and science 46 (8.0%)
Catering and hospitality 57 (10.0%)
Business and administration 89 (15.6%)
Engineering and manufacturi... 72 (12.6%)
Legal finance and accounting 60 (10.5%)
Sales marketing and procurement 59 (10.3%)
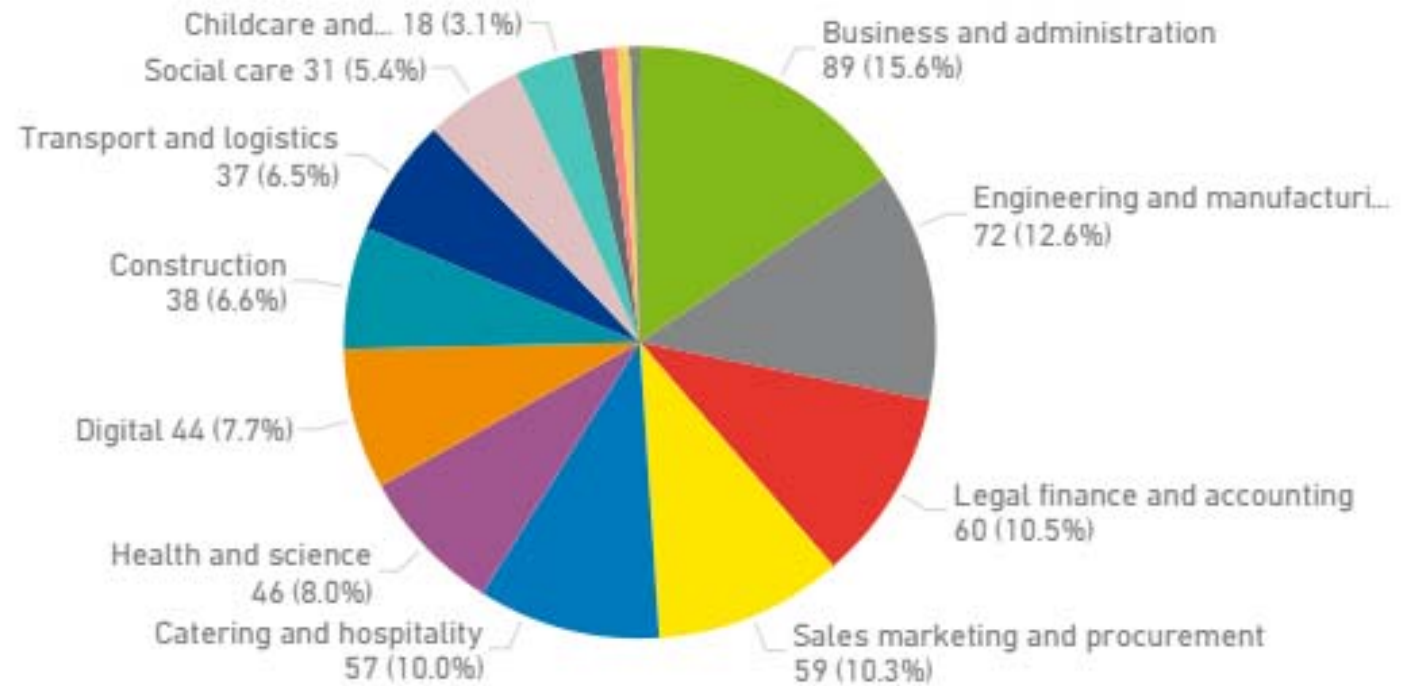
EPAs from approved standards

Currently a potential **572** EPAs from approved Standards

Regulated community accounts for **334 (58%)** of potential EPAs

Childcare and... (0.0%)
Social care 20 (3.5%)
Transport and logistics 18 (3.1%)
Construction 21 (3.7%)
Digital 21 (3.7%)
Health and science 35 (6.1%)
Catering and hospitality 43 (7.5%)
Business and administration 58 (10.1%)
Engineering and manufacturi... 25 (4.4%)
Legal finance and accounting 34 (5.9%)
Sales marketing and procurement 43 (7.5%)

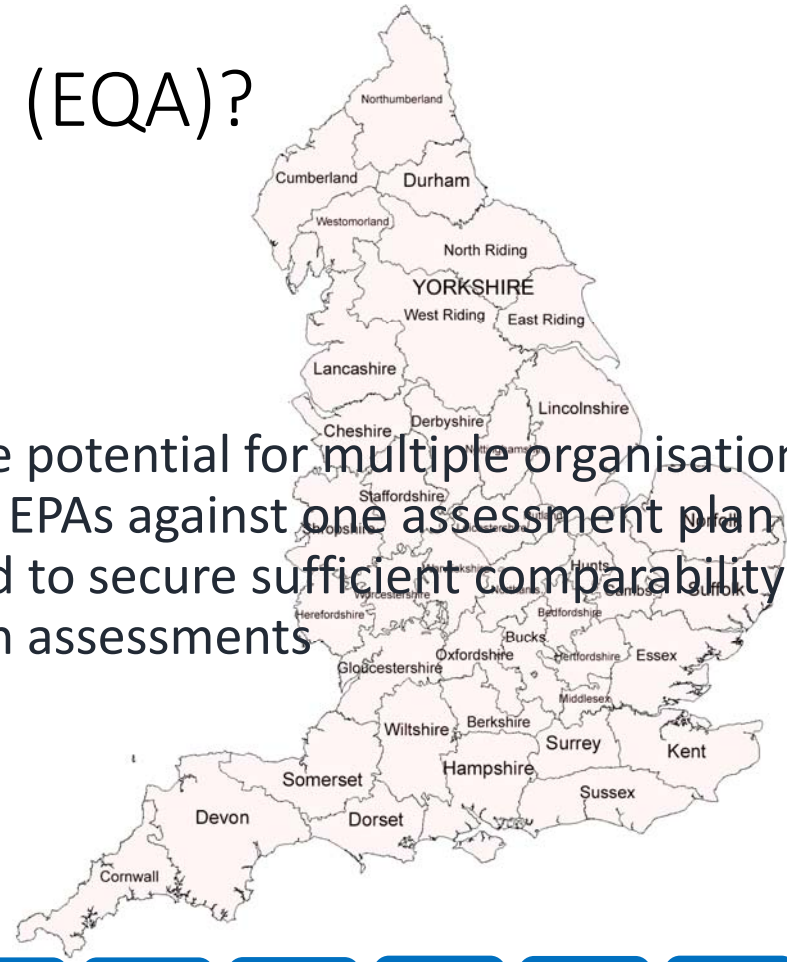# External Quality Assurance, and Ofqual's approach

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What is External Quality Assurance (EQA)?

Standard Assessment Plan

EPAO   EPAO   EPAO

Standard Assessment Plan

EPAO

- With the potential for multiple organisations to develop EPAs against one assessment plan there is a need to secure sufficient comparability between assessments

Standard Assessment Plan

EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO

EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO   EPAO

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Ofqual and EQA
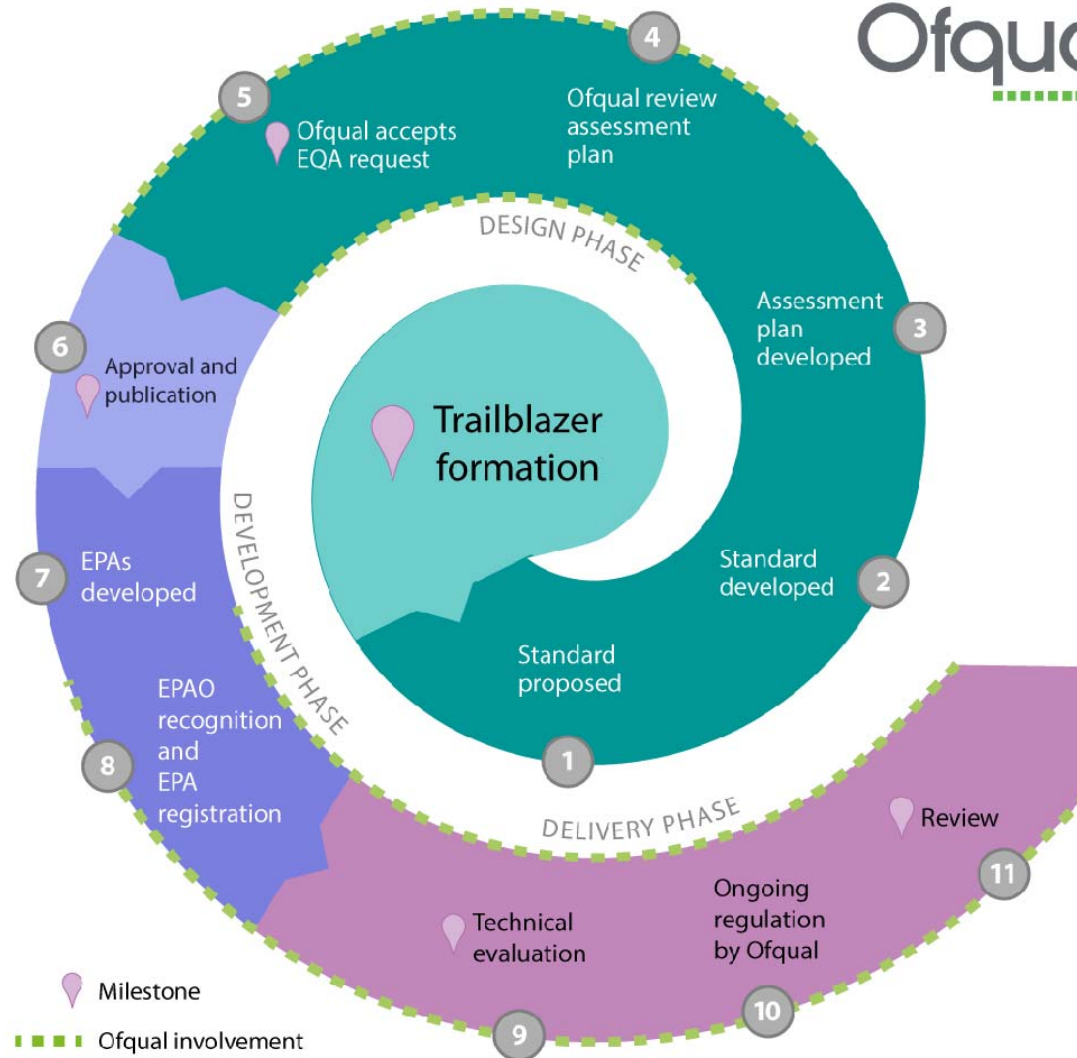
Validity

- It's whether we're assessing the right thing, in the right way, to produce **accurate** and **useful** assessment results
  - The validity of a particular assessment is
    - the degree to which it is possible to **measure**
    - whatever that assessment **needs** to measure
    - by implementing its assessment **procedure**.

"We are putting validity at the heart of what we do. And clearing out any rules and processes that get in the way of that."

(Stacey, G: Oct 2014 Putting validity at the heart of what we do. Speech to the Federation of Awarding Bodies National Conference)
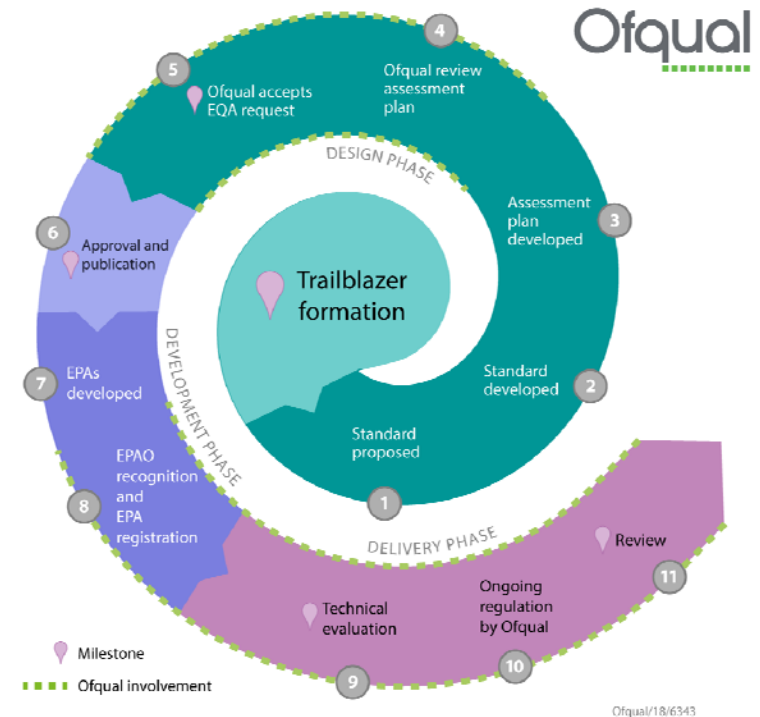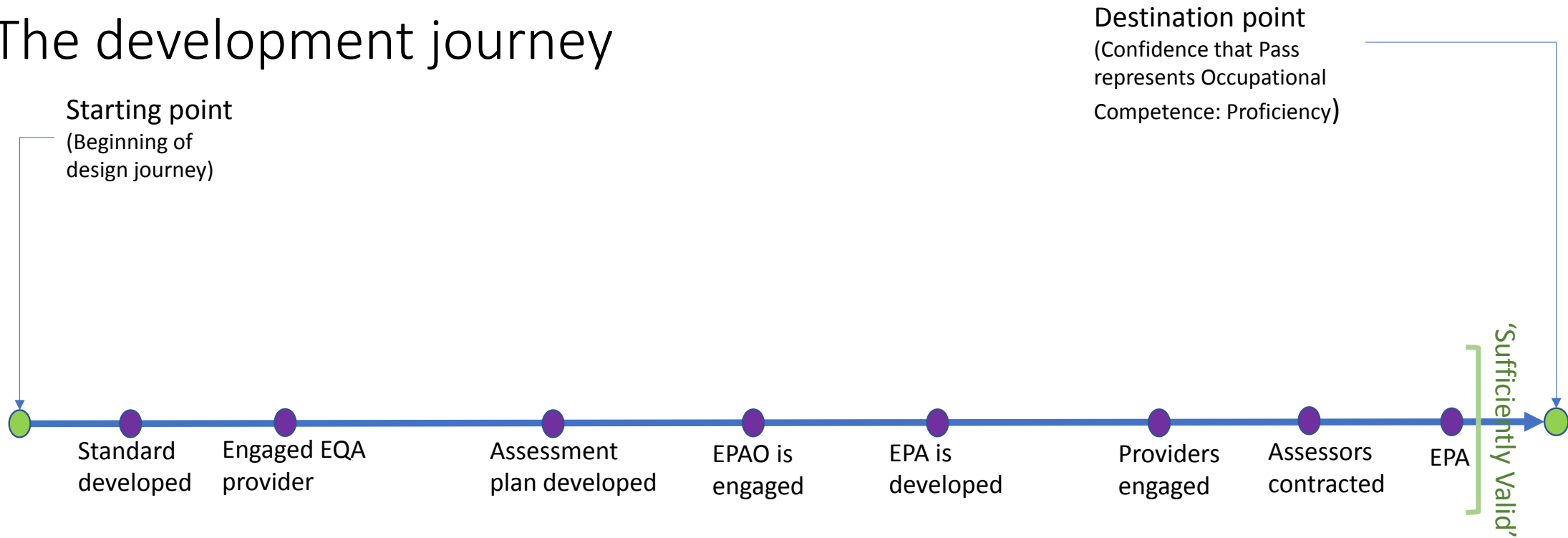
At every stage

- It's whether we're assessing the right thing, in the right way, to produce **accurate** and **useful** assessment results
  - The validity of a particular assessment is
    - the degree to which it is possible to **measure**
    - whatever that assessment **needs** to measure
    - by implementing its assessment **procedure**.

"A good assessment procedure comprises features and processes which are designed to capture **signal** *(concerning the proficiency of each candidate) and eliminate* **noise**.*" (Paul Newton)*

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The development journey

Starting point
(Beginning of
design journey)

Destination point
(Confidence that Pass
represents Occupational
Competence: Proficiency)

Standard
developed

Engaged EQA
provider

Assessment
plan developed

EPAO is
engaged

EPA is
developed

Providers
engaged

Assessors
contracted

EPA

'Sufficiently Valid'

The development journey

Starting point
(Beginning of design journey)

Destination point
(Confidence that Pass represents Occupational Competence: Proficiency)

'Sufficiently Valid'

Trailblazer formation | Standard developed | Standard Proposed / Engaged EQA provider | Assessment plan developed | Ofqual review of assessment plan / Assessment plan developed | Approval and publication / EPAO is engaged | EPAs developed / EPA is developed | EPAO Recognition | Technical Evaluation / Providers engaged | Ongoing regulation / Assessors contracted | Review / EPA
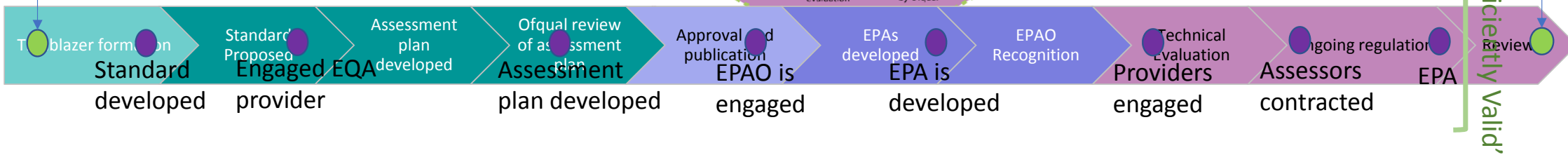
The development journey

Starting point
(Beginning of design journey)

Destination point
(Confidence that Pass represents Occupational Competence: Proficiency)

Reducing the likelihood of assessment invalidity

Reducing the likelihood of assessment invalidity

Reducing the likelihood of assessment invalidity

'Sufficiently Valid'

Trailblazer formation

Standard developed

Standard Proposed

Engaged EQA provider

Assessment plan developed

Assessment plan developed

Ofqual review of assessment plan

Approval and publication

EPAO is engaged

EPAs developed

EPA is developed

Providers engaged

Assessors contracted

EPA

Review

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Process and Tools

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Assessment plan review: Technical Advisory Group

"Is there anything in the assessment plan that would cause an awarding organisation to develop an EPA that wasn't sufficiently valid?"
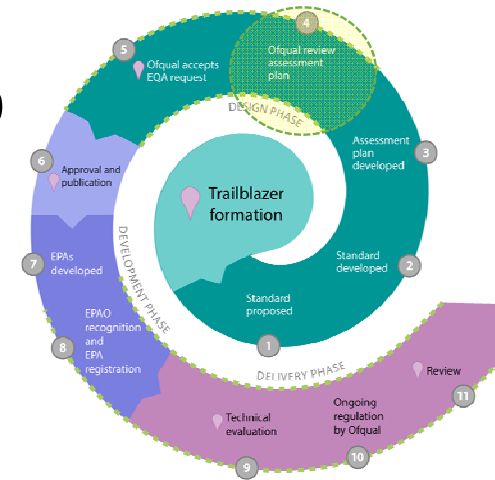
What are we looking for?

Assessment plan

| Assessment methods | Grading | Grade Criteria | Mapping of KSBs | KSBs (standard) |

Interrelation of assessment features and processes

"A good assessment procedure comprises features and processes which are designed to capture **signal** *(concerning the proficiency of each candidate) and eliminate* **noise***."*
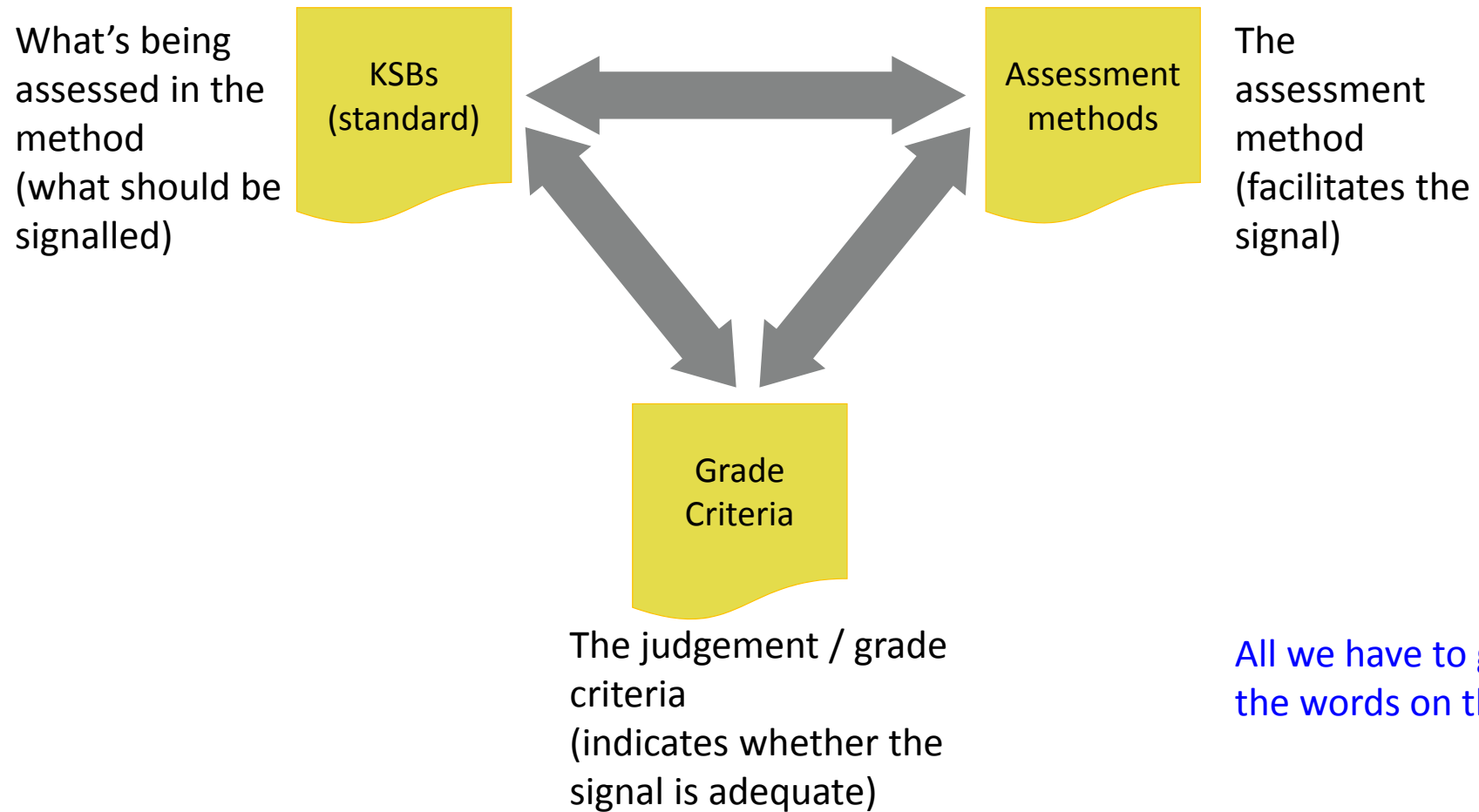
Assessment plan

| Assessment methods | Grading | Grade Criteria | Mapping of KSBs | KSBs (standard) |

Interrelation of assessment features and processes

What's being assessed in the method (what should be signalled)

KSBs (standard)

Assessment methods

The assessment method (facilitates the signal)

Grade Criteria

The judgement / grade criteria (indicates whether the signal is adequate)

All we have to go by are the words on the page!

An example...

Team Working

Interacts well with others,
understands limits of their own role in relation to others' roles, can identify the challenges and benefits of team working.

(Skill/Behaviour?)

Grade Criteria

- communicates verbally with others in the team
- both initiates, and responds to, questions and scenarios faced by others and themselves in a group context
- can both lead and be led in considering a situation faced by their team.

Assessment method

Observation/Practical?

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Team Working

Interacts well with others, **understands limits of their own role in relation to others' roles, can identify the challenges and benefits of team working.**

Grade Criteria

- demonstrates where their responsibility in a task starts and finishes
- displays understanding of how and when to seek the authority of others in the completion of a task
- Identifies more than one challenge and benefit of working with others in a group context

Assessment method

Discussion, Knowledge test?

A good assessment procedure...is a balance

- comprises features and processes which are designed to capture **signal** (concerning the proficiency of each candidate) and eliminate **noise**.

- will <u>never</u> be a **perfect** assessment procedure, because assessment design is <u>always</u> a matter of **trade-off and compromise**.
    - e.g. tolerating a lower-quality signal to keep noise levels manageable
    - e.g. tolerating less validity to keep the assessment burden to a minimum

- is one that has **sufficient validity** and is **trusted**.

Process alignment

- Working closely with the IfA we have aligned Ofqual's process of assessment plan review and agreement to EQA, with that of the IfA - 'dovetailing' it with the Institute's over-arching approval process.

(IfA's approval process)

(Ofqual's TAG process)
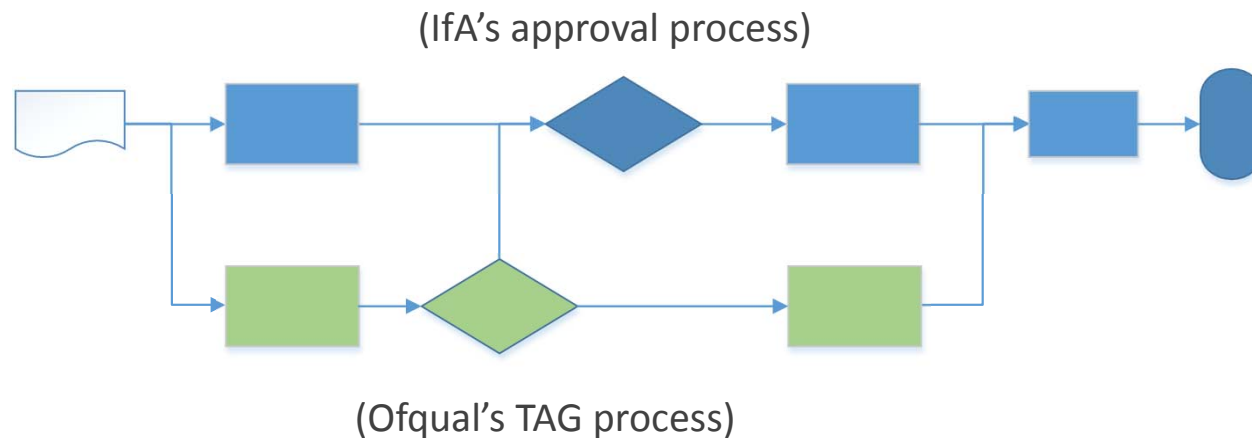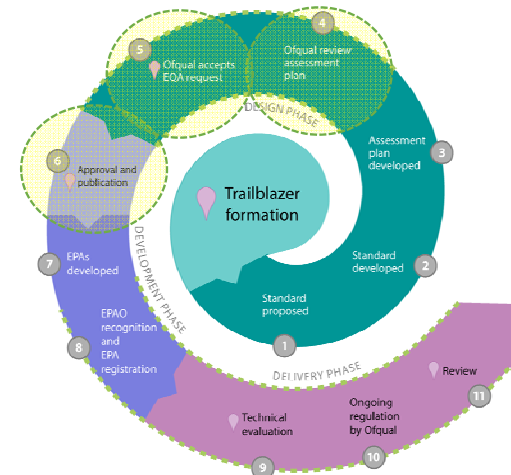
Technical Evaluation

- Does the assessment meets the specifications of the assessment plan?

- Focuses on issues related to assessment validity and standards

- Two-part evaluation of the assessment instruments:
  - In-house technical scrutiny
  - Subject-specialist consideration of materials
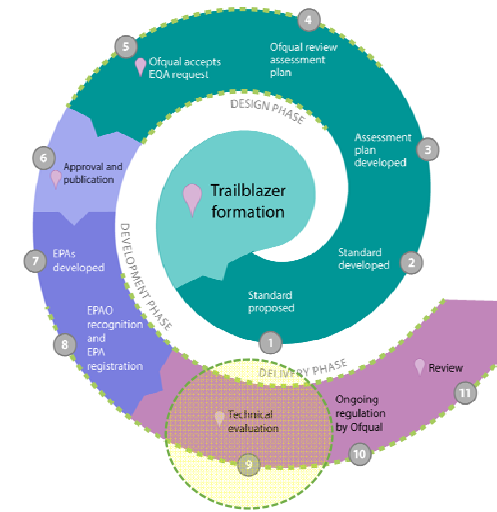
Technical Evaluation considerations
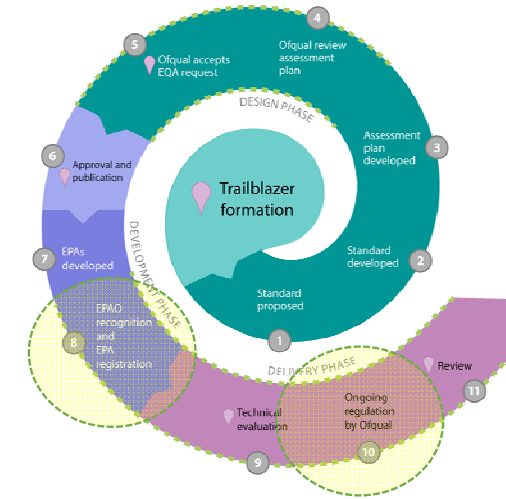
Can the EPA:

- reliably test the knowledge, skills and behaviours specified in the apprenticeship standard and assessment plan

- be graded in line with the assessment plan stipulations

- enable results to be trusted as a measure of what an apprentice knows and can do

For example:

- Is there sufficient exemplificati

- Is there clarity of what is expected at different grades

- Is the assessor guidance clear

- Are expectations of the apprentice clear

Ongoing EQA

We control entry to the regulated market

We control the legal framework through the Conditions of Recognition

We use a variety of tools to drive and enforce compliance
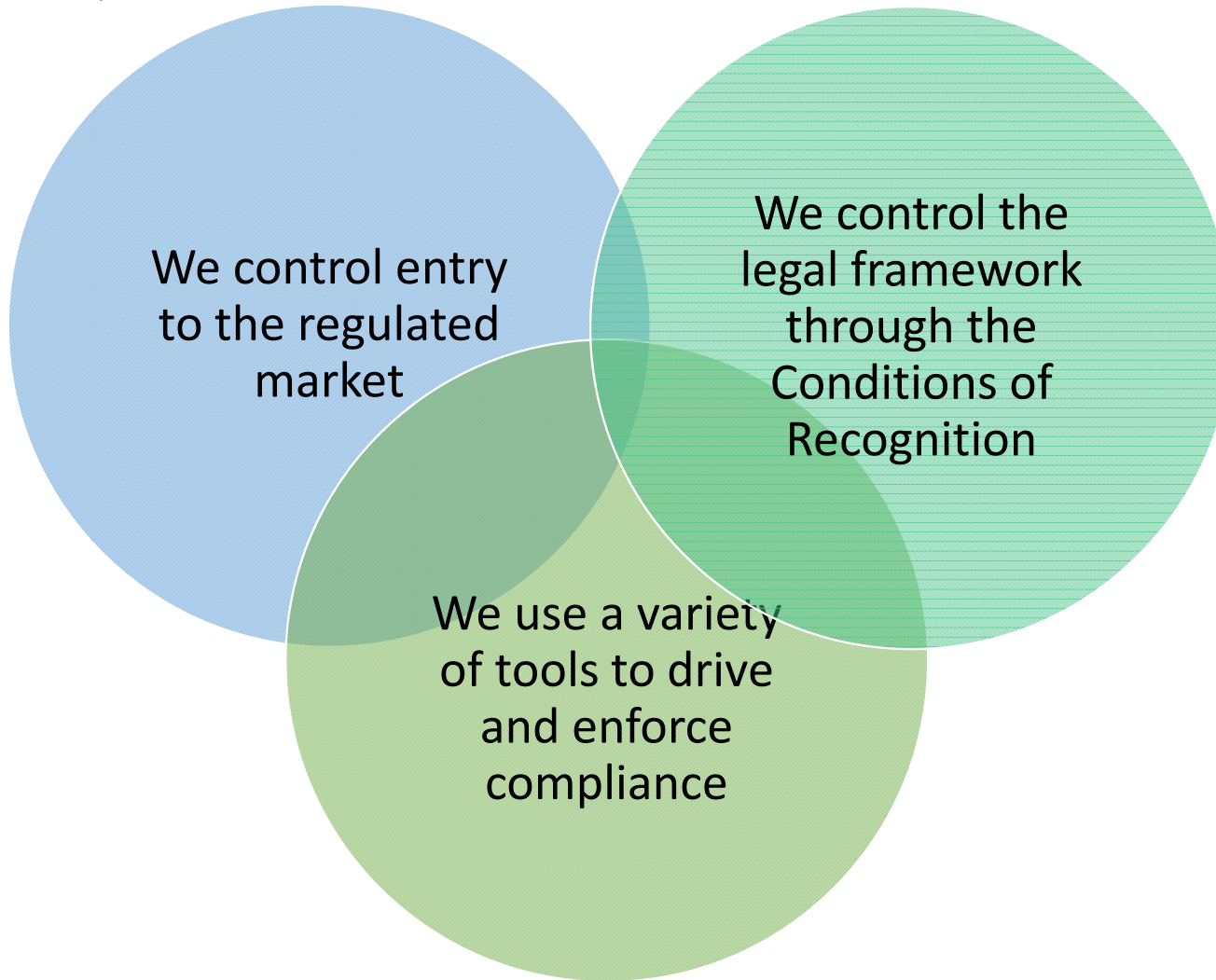
Evidence, Intelligence and Risk

Risk analysis

Market intelligence

Data indicators

Complaints

Observations

Event notifications

Compliance statements

Entity

Qualification

Systemic

Risk management
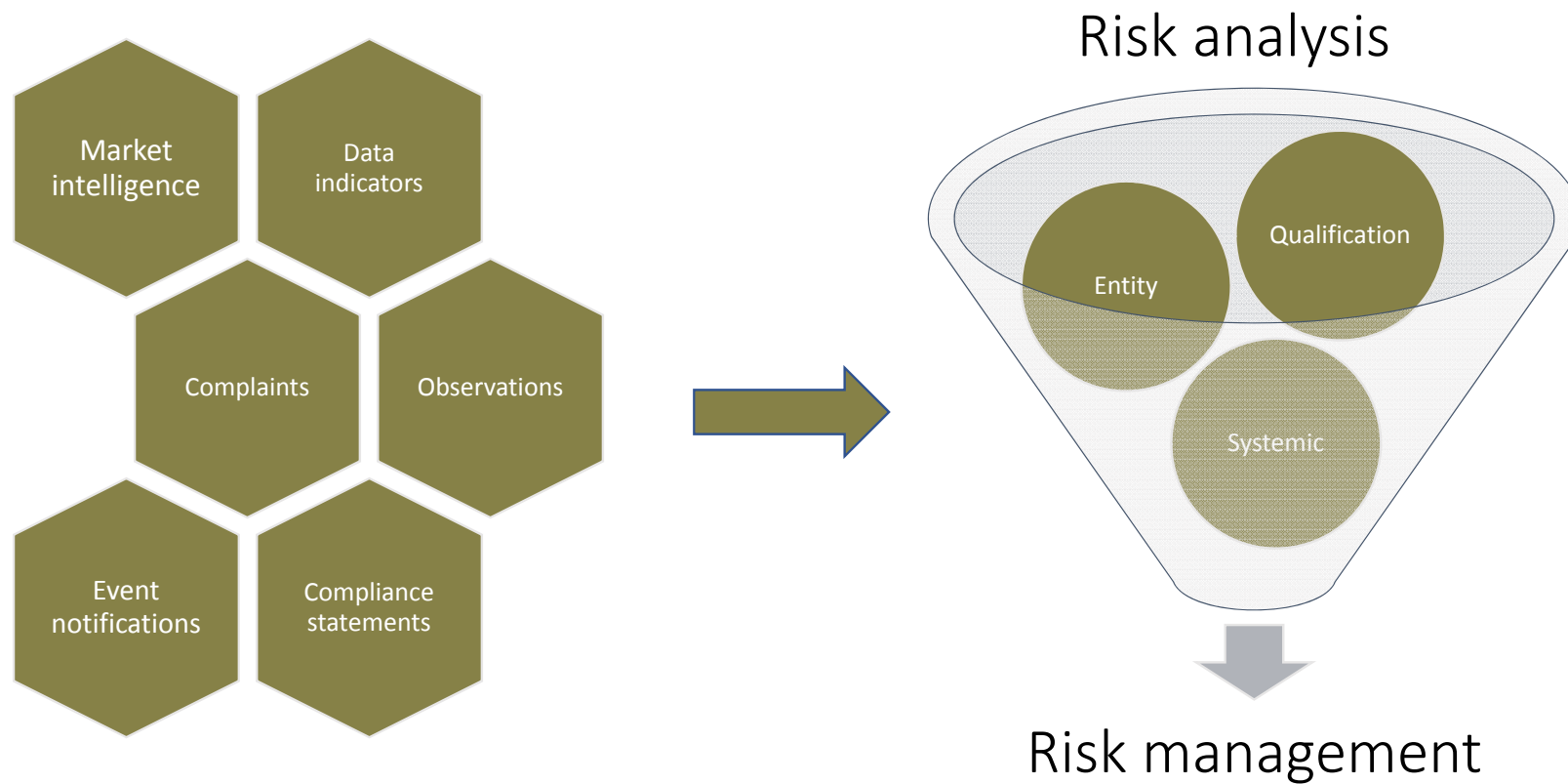
EQA tools

- Regulations
- Accreditation or upfront evaluation
- Qualification evaluation
- Information / data request
- Delivery review

- Audit
- Investigation
- Enforcement
- Research
- Influencing
- Stakeholder engagement

Our objective is your confidence

| Trailblazer formation | Standard Proposed | Assessment plan developed | Ofqual review of assessment plan | Approval and publication | EPAs developed | EPAO Recognition | Technical Evaluation | Ongoing regulation | Review |

Beginning of design journey)

*"A good assessment procedure comprises features and processes which are designed to capture **signal** (concerning the proficiency of each candidate) and eliminate **noise**." (Paul Newton)*

Confidence that Pass represents Occupational Competence: Proficiency

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Links

- Our [EQA approach](#), and the [apprenticeship standards](#) we regulate
- Apprenticeship specific enquiries

    apprenticeships@Ofqual.gov.uk

- Find out more about becoming an Ofqual external expert:

    http://bit.ly/ofqual-experts

- Sign up to our employer newsletter for the latest news on qualifications changes:

    http://eepurl.com/dw67ur

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