



# Equality Act 2010

## 2010 CHAPTER 15

### PART 5

#### WORK

#### CHAPTER 1

##### EMPLOYMENT, ETC.

##### *Qualifications*

### 53 Qualifications bodies

- (1) A qualifications body (A) must not discriminate against a person (B)—
  - (a) in the arrangements A makes for deciding upon whom to confer a relevant qualification;
  - (b) as to the terms on which it is prepared to confer a relevant qualification on B;
  - (c) by not conferring a relevant qualification on B.
- (2) A qualifications body (A) must not discriminate against a person (B) upon whom A has conferred a relevant qualification—
  - (a) by withdrawing the qualification from B;
  - (b) by varying the terms on which B holds the qualification;
  - (c) by subjecting B to any other detriment.
- (3) A qualifications body must not, in relation to conferment by it of a relevant qualification, harass—
  - (a) a person who holds the qualification, or
  - (b) a person who applies for it.
- (4) A qualifications body (A) must not victimise a person (B)—

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**Changes to legislation:** *Equality Act 2010, Cross Heading: Qualifications is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (a) in the arrangements A makes for deciding upon whom to confer a relevant qualification;
  - (b) as to the terms on which it is prepared to confer a relevant qualification on B;
  - (c) by not conferring a relevant qualification on B.
- (5) A qualifications body (A) must not victimise a person (B) upon whom A has conferred a relevant qualification—
- (a) by withdrawing the qualification from B;
  - (b) by varying the terms on which B holds the qualification;
  - (c) by subjecting B to any other detriment.
- (6) A duty to make reasonable adjustments applies to a qualifications body.
- (7) The application by a qualifications body of a competence standard to a disabled person is not disability discrimination unless it is discrimination by virtue of section 19.

## **54 Interpretation**

- (1) This section applies for the purposes of section 53.
- (2) A qualifications body is an authority or body which can confer a relevant qualification.
- (3) A relevant qualification is an authorisation, qualification, recognition, registration, enrolment, approval or certification which is needed for, or facilitates engagement in, a particular trade or profession.
- (4) An authority or body is not a qualifications body in so far as—
  - (a) it can confer a qualification to which section 96 applies,
  - (b) it is the responsible body of a school to which section 85 applies,
  - (c) it is the governing body of an institution to which section 91 applies,
  - (d) it exercises functions under the Education Acts, or
  - (e) it exercises functions under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980.
- (5) A reference to conferring a relevant qualification includes a reference to renewing or extending the conferment of a relevant qualification.
- (6) A competence standard is an academic, medical or other standard applied for the purpose of determining whether or not a person has a particular level of competence or ability.

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 40A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 1](#)
- s. 120(9) inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 3](#)