Northern Ireland
Social Care Council

'RULES/TERMS AND CONDITIONS' FOR FUNDING OF INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE VERIFIERS

What you need to know when applying for funding:

1. We seek to ensure that opportunities for funding support are made available to independent sector (community & voluntary and private), statutory organisations and private training providers through communications to social care employers/ managers, learning and development staff, organisational development staff and private training providers. This is done using direct communication and posting information on the NI Social Care Council (Social care Council) website.

2. Priority will be given to applications from independent and statutory sector organisations.

3. Calls for applications are communicated with the deadline stated for **employers** to make applications.

4. Only applications that have been fully completed will be initially considered for funding support. Where incomplete, the Social Care Council will reject the application or request further information.

5. Funding is available for qualification fees only for staff who have not yet started the qualification/s. Funding is not available to cover staffing costs and/or absences while qualifications are completed.

6. The Social Care Council **does** **not** **pay** **VAT**. All costs must be quoted as net figures.

7. Applications for funding support must be signed off by a CEO, Director or a Senior Manager in an organisation with the understanding that learners will complete the qualifications and the employer will provide support for their employees for the duration of the course.

8. It is the responsibility of employers to source the training provider(s) for delivery of the internal quality assurance verifier qualification(s).

9. Employers must ensure that staff members they are applying for have the right to work in line with the following requirements, see: right to work – Search – GOV.UK.

10. Applications must be received by the Social Care Council by **5pm on 17th February 2026**. The Social Care Council will aim to inform social care organisations of the outcome of their applications by **27th February 2026** at the latest.

11. Decisions on the allocation of funding support will be taken by a Social Care Council panel. Equity, value for money and benchmarking determine how

much funding is available per organisation. Funding may be given to whole or part qualifications.

12. Appropriate applications that are not successful at the initial stage, due to the limit of available funding, will be held on a reserve list/pool.

13. Successful organisations may not receive the total amount requested (refer to point 11 above).

14. Successful organisations must confirm that the staff they apply for have registered for, or have started the qualification, before funding is released.

15. Candidates must have completed the qualifications by **11 September 2026**.

16. Incomplete qualifications **will result in employers having to return unspent funding** to the Social Care Council.

17. Successful organisations must provide an appropriate invoice to the Social Care Council before funding is released. This must occur by **5pm on 6th March 2026.** Invoices to be emailed to: Workforcedevelopment@niscc.hscni.net.

18. Successful organisations, in accepting funding, are agreeing to comply with requests for information from the Social Care Council on learner progress updates and outcomes.

19. The Social Care Council aim to pay invoices to social care employers by: **20th March 2026.**

Published: January 2026