

Mercurius Politicus.

Direct Claim Status (DCS) is where we recognise named individuals at your centre as Approved Internal Verifiers (AIVs) authorised to sign the RAC instead of an EV for specific qualifications/courses. Where DCS is granted the AIV takes on the responsibility of the EV for those qualifications and therefore the AIV must only approve the RAC when they are satisfied with the standards of assessment and verification that have taken place.

DCS relates only to an individual AIV within a particular centre and is not transferable, either between verifiers or between centres. DCS can be withdrawn at any time if either the practice of the AIV or centre falls below the expected standard.

You can nominate appropriate staff to become a AIVs by completing and returning the **'Direct to the MERCURIUS POLITICUS Awards quality team. Completed DCS Application Forms are considered by the quality team and either approved, approved with conditions or rejected. In order to be considered for DCS the following criteria must be met:**

- **You have at least two EV reports with no actions set, showing excellence or continuous improvement in internal quality assurance**
- **You have appropriately qualified and/or experienced staff nominated to be Approved Internal Verifiers (AIVs)**

Centre staff nominated to be an AIV must meet the following criteria:

- **Have at least 2 years current experience of Internal Verification**
- **Have attended one of our Approved Internal Verifier training courses and passed the written test**
- **Ideally AIVs will hold a recognised Internal Verification or Internal Quality Assurance qualification (such as IQA, D34, V1)**

Once you have DCS for a qualification/course then those courses will not require External Verification. Once the AIV has approved the RAC it must be returned to your Customer Support Officer who will process it assuming that the AIV has authority to approve that RAC. However

unless you have DCS for all approved qualifications then you will still require EV visits for those qualifications that you do not have DCS for.

All Approved Internal Verifiers must attend a minimum of one DCS Standardisation event per academic year. At these events AIVs must bring a sample of internally verified assessed work to be scrutinised by our EVs and QRs, along with evidence of your internal quality assurance activity. At the same time your AIVs will undertake some training, updating and sharing of practice with the other AIVs in attendance. We will provide details of these events annually to your AIVs.