

MEMBER VISIT

FDQ

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FDQ is a specialist Awarding and EPA Organisation with a unique commitment to the food and drink sector across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As a dedicated not-for-profit charity with 25 years of sector experience, **FDQ reinvests back into the industry it serves**, ensuring qualifications and assessments remain relevant, high-quality, and industry-driven.

FDQ delivers a wide portfolio of apprenticeships and qualifications tailored to the evolving needs of the food and drink industry. Their qualifications span a wide range of disciplines including:

- Butchery
- Bakery
- Brewing
- Fishmongery
- Food & Drink Engineering
- Drinks Dispense Technician
- Plus many more specialist areas.

NEWS and UPDATES from member:

FDQ recently celebrated a major milestone – completing their 3,000th End-Point Assessment and now issuing over 10,000 certificates annually. Their impact continues to grow across the UK.

Further recognition came when FDQ's CEO was re-elected to the Federation of Awarding Bodies Board, advocating nationally on behalf of Awarding Organisations and EPAOs.

In Wales, FDQ has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to develop a new Level 4 Diploma in Brewing Operations – the first of its kind in the country, building on their strong foundation of support in England.



FDQ remains committed to navigating qualification reform and curriculum change. With the current pause on development, FDQ and others in the FE sector are eager for clarity, particularly in high-skill areas like professional bakery and butchery where tech advancements demand timely qualification updates.

Looking Ahead:

As discussions around EPA reform and Foundation Apprenticeships continue, FDQ is closely involved in shaping future policy. They are actively engaged in understanding how these changes will impact apprenticeship quality and the regulatory integrity of EPAOs. FDQ will also be participating in the upcoming Yorkshire Learning Providers EPA Roundtable in May to explore these issues further.

They are particularly interested in how Foundation Apprenticeships might open new pathways for young people into the food and drink industry, and are keen to align their qualifications with this potential.

How FDQ benefit from a YLP membership:

“There has never been a more important time to be part of regional networks,” say FDQ. *“The shift to regionalised education delivery means being involved in conversations at both local and regional levels is vital. YLP offers direct engagement with training providers, insight into on-the-ground delivery, and a collective voice for change. It’s the future of sector development.”*

YLP is proud to support FDQ as they continue to champion excellence and innovation within one of the UK’s most vital industries.