

How do you see the current licence structure and the failings of the three tier system towards progression and what are your thoughts on the 'Beginners' licence' idea with a view as to what is good for the hobby?

Kevin Stick, MOYRX

Answered by Dave Wilson, MOOBW

Maybe I'm biased, but I think the numbers speak for themselves. In April 2020, since we introduced remote invigilation, nearly 3.5 thousand candidates have sat the Foundation licence. Which in itself is about twice as many as in previous years.

Over 1000 have progressed to Intermediate from Foundation level and over 350 to Full licence level from Intermediate. Both of which are significantly higher than in previous years. So, it is my view and those that I have spoken to, that we must be doing something right. I wonder what the failings are? I mean some people have made that sort of comment in the past but aren't able to present any sort of evidence of those failings.

With regards to the Beginners' licence, the Foundation licence *is* the Beginners' licence. What justification is there for another licence tier? The subject of a Beginners' licence has been the subject of discussion a number of times within the Examination Standards Committee, which by the way is attended by Ofcom. The result of the discussions is that no one can see what the benefit a Beginners' licence would bring to the table, which by the way is a view shared by a number of regulators across IARU Region 1. I think we are doing the right things.

Additional note: As of 27 June 2021 the numbers of candidates who have taken the Foundation exam is 4,149, the Intermediate 1,343 and the Full 662.

There is plenty of information regarding exam training, remote invigilation exams and information for students at <https://rsgb.org/main/clubs-training/exam-faq>.

