

**GATR NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT - APRIL 2019**  
**SKILLS FOR JUSTICE AWARDS**  
**LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATE and LEVEL 2 AWARD IN FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Dear Colleague

By the beginning of the 2019/20 financial year about one hundred and fifty experienced practitioners will have registered for the robust GATR four-stage assessment process aligned to both the Skills for Justice Awards (SFJ Awards) Level 5 Certificate (L5C) in Fire Investigation and the National Occupational Standard (NOS).

Since piloting our 'Introduction to Fire Investigation' online Level 2 Course designed for personnel who perform 'Tier 1' scene investigations, participating organisations have indicated a requirement for an average of fifty Crew/Watch managers per year. For further details see our January Newsletter and the GATR website [www.gatr.co.uk](http://www.gatr.co.uk)

In recent months, amongst the most Frequently Asked Questions in our Newsletters, we have found ourselves answering the following additional questions:

***Q Who is the NOS designed for and the Level 5 Certificate (L5C) targeted at?***

Experienced practitioners carrying out Tier 2 investigations who should be trained and competent to a level equivalent to meet all of the SFJ Awards L5C assessment criteria and should be working to the standards prescribed within the Code of Practice for Fire Investigators within the Criminal Justice System". (See National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) 'Fire Investigation Competency Framework')

***Q Are there any pre-entry requirements for the L5C?***

Yes - appropriate experience. (See SFJA Qualifications Handbook)

***Q In academic terms what does the Level 5 Certificate equate to?***

The title of each qualification contains details of the size e.g. An Award or Certificate or Diploma and level of difficulty. The L5C is roughly equivalent to a foundation degree/ NVQ 4-5.

***Q Is there a difference between Level 5 Certificate and Level 5 Award?***

Yes, there certainly is. Although the level of difficulty is the same, the Certificate is more in-depth. This is determined by the allocation of Total Qualification time (TQT) made up of Guided Learning Hours plus all other time taken in preparation or study not under direct supervision of the lecturer, supervisor or tutor. The following has been suggested by OfQual:

120 hours or less = Award

121 - 369 hours = Certificate

370+ hours = Diploma.

GATR offers the Level 5 Certificate.



**Q What other benefits do I get from attaining the SFJA Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation via the GATR assessment process?**

You can apply to become an Engineering Technician with the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) if you can show two years (indicative) experience and can provide experience and two referees, both suitably qualified senior individuals with knowledge of your professional involvement in fire engineering. <https://www.ife.org.uk/Join/EngineeringTechnician>

Those expressing interest in our L5C assessment processes will receive a list of the SFJ Award Learning Outcomes & Assessment Criteria, cross-referenced to relevant reading materials. See [www.gatr.co.uk/level-5-certificate-in-fire-investigation](http://www.gatr.co.uk/level-5-certificate-in-fire-investigation).

To register, L5C candidates should do so via [www.gatr.co.uk/level5-registration](http://www.gatr.co.uk/level5-registration)

**Q Who is the GATR 'Introduction to Fire Investigation' course designed for?**

In the main F&RS and police personnel who should be trained and competent to a level equivalent to meet all of the SFJ Awards Level 2 assessment criteria. (See NFCC 'Fire Investigation Competency Framework')

Our Level 2 course, including interactive assessments, can be completed entirely online. It involves 20hrs of learning and can be taken as a stand-alone online learning event or accredited by SFJ Awards as a Level 2 Award qualification, similar to our SFJ Awards Level 5 Certificate assessment process. In either case the costs per registered cohort are very competitive. For further information contact [enquiries@gatr.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gatr.co.uk)

**Q How much per delegate does the GATR Introduction course cost? £120 + vat**

Those tasked with co-ordinating fire investigation training & assessment activities and formulating effective succession plans, should be advised that our May 2019 five-day Practical and three-day Practical Development Refresher (PDR) training courses are now full. Subject to continued current levels of demand further events are scheduled for June and/or September 2019 and March 2020

Those wishing to express an interest in our practical and/or online training options should do so a.s.a.p. via Tel: 07581 843 737 and/or email: [enquiries@gatr.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@gatr.co.uk)

Kind Regards,

GATR Training and Accreditation Teams

