

*The North of Scotland  
Branch*



*The Royal Scottish  
Pipe Band  
Association*

Dear Bands,

The Branch have been able to arrange classes for the above in Aberdeen and detailed information can be found in the attached document prepared by our Music Board representatives after agreement with HQ Glasgow who will provide instructors and assessors. PLEASE highlight to all Pipe Majors / Leading Drummers / Tutors and circulate widely given such opportunities are limited.

It should be noted that anyone who wishes to sit SCQF6 / PDQB4 in Piping will need to arrange their own Piobaireachd tuition and advise me accordingly so our MB reps. can then ascertain with the RSPBA Education Officer that a qualified Assessor can be present on the assessment day.

If you have any queries in any regard please contact Ranald or Julie directly who will endeavour to help.

[Rancam0607@0607gmail.com](mailto:Rancam0607@0607gmail.com)

[Julie@thistlepiping.com](mailto:Julie@thistlepiping.com)

## RSPBA North of Scotland - PDQB Classes

Following requests from Branch Bands, the North of Scotland Branch are holding PDQB / SCQF / SQA classes this autumn. Final arrangements are in progress, and dates have been set as follows:-

<b>Sun September 24</b>	This initial meeting in <b>Inverurie</b> is for Band Tutors to appraise them of the requirements and support needed for course attendees
Sat October 7	)
Sun October 8	)
	All classes will be 1000 hrs -1600hrs(approx.. timings)
Sat November 18	)
Sun November 19	)
Sat December 9	Assessments

The venue will be Robert Gordon's College on Schoolhill in Aberdeen (AB10 1FE)  
All Instructors will be allocated by the RSPBA Education Officer.

Please refer to this link for the Qualification equivalents: <https://pdqb.org/>  
On the same link under Certificates & Syllabus is given details of the requirements for each level; particular attention should be paid to the performance requirements. Slightly more detailed particulars can be found at <http://www.collegeofpiping.org/examinations/>

Classes are NOT designed for beginners to learn from scratch, but are designed to consolidate knowledge already gained, so candidates can achieve the level required to pass the assessment at the end of the course.

Fees: As Fees are charged at each level of the Qualification, it is in candidates' best interest to aim for the highest level they can achieve at a given time.  
The cost per candidate will be £ 70 (35 for the Tuition, and 35 for the Assessment). This is a considerable saving over the estimated actual cost, as this course is largely funded by Branch Funds and by the RSPBA.

For any candidates wishing to study on their own and present themselves for assessment, the Fee will be £35.

Cheques payable to Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association-North of Scotland Branch.  
Completed Applications, showing name, age, Band and intended level of examination, with payment attached, should be sent to:-

Mrs Linda Niven, Inveroyne, Kirkton of Oyne, Inch AB52 6QU  
to be received **no later than Saturday 26 August 2017.**

## SCQF Tuition 2017

Further to the previous notification about the classes to be held this Autumn, one or two changes should be noted.

1. Just to avoid confusion, the Piping and Snare Drumming Qualifications should be referred to as SCQF qualifications as they carry SQA validity, unlike the Bass and Tenor which are PDQB qualifications only.
2. **CHANGE OF DATE & VENUE** The Preliminary meeting, originally stated as taking place on Saturday 23 September in Laurencekirk will now take place on **Sunday 24 September** in **Inverurie**.  
The venue is the Catholic Church Hall on 116 North St, Inverurie AB51 4TL, just on the B9001, at 1400 hrs, with access from 1330 hrs. The hall is behind the church and accessed via a lane off the main road. There is small car park and also plenty of on-street parking.
3. It is considered essential that Band leaders whose members are taking the classes attend this meeting so they are aware of the amount of work to be covered. Students are equally as welcome if they have any questions they feel need to be addressed.
4. It is expected that those taking the Assessment should attend all the classes, unless they are very well versed in the requirements for that level and are confident in their knowledge. Remember, the Pass Mark is set at around 80% so in-depth knowledge and ability is expected.