

4. We suggest that you commission a programme of work to take this analysis and investigation forward, . This would begin with an initial discussion with senior officials in SQA and Education Scotland, including the chief examiner and the chief inspector, and following this up with further, more detailed, work as required. You may wish to convene this first meeting to start the process off and outline your expectations.

5. We will examine entries, performance and trends on a subject-by-subject basis, and level-by-level. {Redacted S29 (1) (a)}

6. The work will also consider evidence around the broad general education and learners' preparedness for entering the senior phase and the full breadth of opportunities available in this phase of their education.

15. Clearly there is a need for this work to be carried out at pace. If you agree we will seek a date for the first meeting with the chief examiner, the chief inspector and ADES as soon as possible. We intend to continue the dialogue over the remainder of August and September, with a view to discussing our findings with you at the end of September.

{Redacted S29 (1) (a)}

## Recommendation

16. **The DFM is invited to:**

- **Comment on the proposed approach and indicate whether he wishes to commission this work**
- **Indicate if he is happy for ADES to work with us on the initial investigation and analysis, agreeing that we contact Tony McDaid**
- **Indicate whether he wishes to chair the first meeting where expectations can be set out to the chief examiner, chief inspector, ADES representation and Learning Directorate senior officials**