

SQA RESULTS 2019

COMMISSION FROM DFM: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, SQA, EDUCATION SCOTLAND, ADES

1. At the meeting with SQA, Education Scotland and ADES on 3 September, the DFM commissioned partners to provide him with distilled analysis around the 2019 results, what these may suggest about the current system, and what specific actions are required to help support the best possible outcomes for learners.

2. He expressed particular interest in the following themes:

- What are the 2019 results telling us about learning and teaching? This includes subject specific issues, local authority and/or school specific issues.
- Are we confident that the assessment approach is appropriate for each subject at each level?
- What specific action is required to address any issues?
- The impact of the wider range of learner pathways and associated qualifications and awards, particularly at Level 5 and 6, on the numbers of 'traditional' qualifications.
- Is the assessment approach in Senior Phase consistent with intentions of curriculum [longer term – second phase of analysis]

Suggested timeline

| Action | Lead | Date |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Analysis subject-by-subject (for N5, Higher and Advanced Higher) by SQA of evidence from course reports and other material (template A): | SQA | Monday, 16 September |
| Analysis subject-by-subject of evidence from Education Scotland inspectors and subject specialists (template B): | Education Scotland | Monday, 16 September |
| Identification of specific actions by national partners and local authorities (template C) | All partners | Monday, 23 September |
| Final report to DFM | SG, working with all partners | Monday, 30 September |

SQA RESULTS 2019

DFM's MEETING WITH SQA, EDUCATION SCOTLAND AND ADES

3 September 2019

Attendees

- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
- Graeme Logan, Director of Learning, Scottish Government
- Fiona Robertson, Chief Executive and Chief Examiner, SQA
- Gayle Gorman, Chief Executive and HM Chief Inspector, Education Scotland
- Tony McDaid, Executive Director of Education Resources, South Lanarkshire Council (ADES)
- Alan Armstrong, Strategic Director, Education Scotland
- Robert Quinn, Head of English, Language & Business, SQA
- James Morgan, Head of Research, Policy Standards & Statistics, SQA
- Elizabeth Boyling, Head of Learning Analysis, Scottish Government
- Andrew White, Performance and Attainment Statistics Team Leader, Scottish Government
- Murray McVicar, Head of Senior Phase Unit, Scottish Government

1. DFM convened the meeting on 3 September with SQA, Education Scotland and ADES. The purpose was to undertake a fuller analysis of the 2019 SQA results, in order to explore these in greater depth and consider what they might suggest about the current health of the Scottish education system; also to identify what further action might be required to help more young people to be as successful as possible

2. At the meeting he commissioned partners to provide him with distilled analysis around the 2019 results, what these may suggest about the current system, and what specific actions are required to help support the best possible outcomes for learners.

3. He expressed particular interest in the following themes:

- What are the 2019 results tell us about learning, teaching and assessment approaches?
- What, if any, specific action is required?
- The role of assessment within the curriculum [longer term – second phase of analysis]

4. The meeting discussed the potential variables that could be at play and it was recognised that there had also been considerable media focus on a range of issues. It was agreed that it is important to understanding the drivers of school improvement in an empowered system. How can further support for professional learning be provided?

5. Attendees acknowledged that, given that Scotland has only approximately 350 secondary schools, it should be possible to ensure the provision of further specific subject, and school targeted, support and challenge where that might prove necessary.

6. Attendees agreed to consider further and report back to the DFM at a subsequent meeting.