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**Enclosure no. 1**

Tue 04/08/2020 12:48

[Redact 38(1)(b)] @icloud.com>

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Hello,

I am really disappointed in the way the results have been awarded this year. I understand that this is out with anyone's control due to the current pandemic but to judge someone's grade off of there geographical area is completely unfair. It's came out to be that the people from deprived areas have had the worse results. There are tweets from people who are from affluent areas who have stated they failed certain prelims but had been awarded A's. I got a B in my Higher English prelim but got put down to a C. It just seems a bit discriminatory against people who are in deprived areas.

Sent from my iPhone



## Enclosure no. 2

Tue 04/08/2020 17:08

[Redact 38(1)(b)]@parliament.scot>; on behalf of; Swinney J (John), MSP  
<John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] @yahoo.com>

Sent: 04 August 2020 16:15

To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Cc: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Richard.Lockhead.msp@parliament.scot; FitzPatrick J (Joe), MSP <Joe.FitzPatrick.msp@parliament.scot>; newsonlinescotland@bbc.co.uk; [Redact 38(1)(b)].uk; Fabiani L (Linda), MSP <Linda.Fabiani.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

[Redact 38(1)(b)]to John Swinney

MSP for Perthshire North / Deputy First Minister / Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

Tel: ☐ 0131 348 5717 www.johnswinneymsp.com / www.scottish.parliament.uk

☐ Before you print think about the ENVIRONMENT

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)]@yahoo.com>

Sent: 04 August 2020 16:15

To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>

Cc: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; Richard.Lockhead.msp@parliament.scot; FitzPatrick J (Joe), MSP <Joe.FitzPatrick.msp@parliament.scot>; newsonlinescotland@bbc.co.uk; [Redact 38(1)(b)].uk; Fabiani L (Linda), MSP <Linda.Fabiani.msp@parliament.scot>

Subject: John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Dear Mr Swinney,

My name is [Redact 38(1)(b)] and I am a 16 year-old female currently attending [Redact 38(1)(b)] in [Redact 38(1)(b)]. Today, August 4th, has been a day for some to recognize and celebrate their efforts and outstanding achievements but for many others across the country, a day which has been filled with less celebration, more puzzlement and the feeling that their hard work this year has been ignored. When my phone pinged at 8 o'clock this morning I never touched it for a total of exactly 43 minutes, instead I sat there staring at the notification from the SQA feeling like I was in a dream. I still cannot seem to get my head around the fact exams this year were cancelled but what I struggle to come to terms with more is that teachers' estimates, my schools past exam performance and even the area in which I live in are what determined my exam results this year.

Last year for my national 5's I proudly walked away with 4 A's, a B and 3 C's and decided to continue studying the four subjects I achieved A's in to higher level. I can truthfully say that this year I worked extremely hard to ensure I done my absolute best in preparing for my highers as this was probably one of, if not the most important year of my life at school. On

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Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
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top of attending school I also dance 23+ hours every week and this doesn't even include performing and competing across the country and overseas. On top of all this finding time to study was a struggle, but I still managed it and gave every test, prelim and class task my absolute best shot. Last year my prelim results really were not what I had hoped for but I pulled it out the bag for the exams and managed to turn no awards to C's and even D's to A's. None of this was down to what my teachers thought I would achieve, those in the years past at school or the home I live in. This was down to my own personal efforts, determination and countless hours of studying alongside little to none sleep.

I cannot do anything more than praise and thank my teachers from the bottom of my heart for guiding me and being fantastic throughout the year. These teachers have known me since I walked into that school at eleven years old and have monitored my work and progress all year long so in my opinion are the most qualified to predict results - not strangers in an office who know my name and post code. The SQA should have used sources such as prelims, tests done throughout the year and previous exam results, alongside teacher input, to determine my grades. Everyone is different, so assuming that someone won't do well and excel in their studies because they are from a deprived area or don't attend a certain school - Jordanhill, Dunblane High or St Ninian's to name a few - simply just is not right. At the end of the day we are all human. The price of the home I live in, the car my parents drive, the job my mum or dad has, none of that affects my studies or who I am or my capabilities. Using class as a basis for results is completely unacceptable especially when it is at a level of seriousness where it is impacting the rest of a child's life.

I appreciate this has been a difficult, very stressful time and COVID 19 has forced the SQA to take an alternative approach to the exam process this year. Despite this on going crisis, I don't think this should be permission for the SQA to involve - in my opinion - irrelevant factors in determining my grades. Many students, including myself, have woke up this morning to sheer disappointment and grades far lower than their potential. We never received the results we both need and deserve to take our education onto the next level at colleges and university we have no choice but to enter lower levels of education, then employment which goes collectively with low pay. This is then encouraging the cycle of poverty and isn't helping those from deprived areas in anyway. If anything, it is keeping them trapped unable to blossom and show everyone, especially the SQA themselves in this circumstance, that they are able and more than capable of achieving great things.

Mr Swinney I am aware that previously you have emphasized your aims to reform education in under-privileged areas. I think a great step in finding a solution to this would definitely be revising the approach the SQA take in assessing exam results and also if a situation like this were to arise again - here's hoping not. This would be a huge step forward and great progress in this target of yours.

Writing this email to you today has taken me a lot of courage. I am doing this not only for myself but on behalf of the thousands of others across the country who share the same opinion as I. We are the future and we are standing up for what we believe is right.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

[Redact 38(1)(b)] \*\*\*\*\*

**Enclosure no. 3**

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] [europa.com](mailto:europa.com)>

**Sent:** 04 August 2020 12:29

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** abject failure

Dear Mr Swinney

My daughter was a straight A student last year, gaining 8 As in her National 5s. Her aim was a law degree from Glasgow University. Her Higher results, delivered today, randomly calculated and guessed at by your charges, who refused to allow her to sit her exams, have placed those dreams in jeopardy.

In the midst of a global pandemic we appear to have an alleged leadership prepared not only to run like headless chickens when dealing with our wage earners, we have an education system in a state of shock and paralysis prepared to condemn our rising talent to the dustbin.

This, Sir, happened on your watch.

I hope your nights will be as sleepless as ours.

Yours very, very sincerely,

[Redact 38(1)(b)]



## Enclosure no.4

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] [outlook.com](mailto:outlook.com)>

Sent: 04 August 2020 13:08

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>

Subject: 2020 Results day... biggest failure in Scottish history

Hi John,

I'm writing to you as a pupil about to move into my last year of high school. This year I feel extremely let down not only by the government but by the SQA, by my school, and by certain teachers at my school. As a member of the LGBT community I can't help but wonder if that fact has played into my results this year. Would I honestly have done better if I wasn't, personally I can't help but feel like yes I would especially since my grades do not reflect my grades last year or other members of my classes grades. To feel like you are inferior as these people are genuinely able to change my future based on personal opinions on me is wrong. There's 1 teacher in my school, I've been in his class since S3, repeatedly put back in his class over, and over again despite the fact I have countless raised concerns over him. I have had countless meeting due to him discriminating against me, bullying me and mentally abusing me, I have even in past emailed the head of education for my council about this teacher, yet I didn't even receive an email back instead I got pulled out of class by my depute head for embarrassing the school. Now that same person who made me feel inferior and worthless and made me not want to attend school gets the last laugh, I didn't get the chance to prove him wrong like I did last year, this year he gets the last laugh and it sticks with me my full life. There is nothing I can do. I can't appeal as he predicted me a fail as well. I can't go to the school because they don't help, they make me feel worse, I can't go to my council, so the only person I can look to is you. I urge you and the Scottish government to please do something about this, please hold an inquiry into this years exam results. Stand with me, the lgbt youth, the blm, all the minority groups, but most importantly stand with the children of Scotland and hear our voices which are so often ignored.

I hope this email finds you well

All the best

## Enclosure no. 5

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2020 13:21  
**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Advanced Higher Result - Disadvantaged Child

AO [Redact 38(1)(b)]

Apologies for typo Mr Swinney.  
[Redact 38(1)(b)] Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)]  
**Date:** 4 August 2020 at 12:28:51 BST  
**To:** [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)  
**Subject:** **Advanced Higher Result - Disadvantaged Child**

Could you please inform me Mr Sweeney on how my son who received 'A' for Higher Biology, did not even receive any Grade for Advanced Higher!!  
He received a B for Advanced Higher Chemistry.  
He also received a B for crash Higher Music but unbelievable and shockingly no award for Advanced Biology.  
This is a child who had all As Nat 5s.  
All As Highers.  
This year was due to sit Advanced Highers Biology and Chemistry and Higher Music.  
This year he had a conditional offer for [Redact 38(1)(b)] at [Redact 38(1)(b)] University.  
This year my son has been disadvantaged by not sitting an exam.

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

## Enclosure no. 6

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] [parliament.scot](mailto:parliament.scot)>  
Sent: 04 August 2020 14:59  
To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
Subject: FW: Exam results

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] [@icloud.com](mailto:@icloud.com)>  
Sent: 04 August 2020 14:54  
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <[John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot)>  
Subject: Exam results

Thanks to the shambles of the current system in place for grading pupils my sons future is uncertain and he is beyond distressed with the results he obtained . His conditional requirements for Glasgow university have not been met and as he has finished 6th year he does not know where to turn to . He has been drastically graded down from his prelims and assessments and the teachers predicted grades . If you cannot be graded by prior attainment and teachers predictions and are deprived of proving yourself on exam day you are at the mercy of the sqa guesstimating and being graded down while living in a priority postcode area that's school is under performing as they are basing results in schools historical results ?! So what happened to individual performance. No exterior factor should lower your mark . So you are penalised for a schools historical poor grades opposed to his well you have done and the teacher says you will do ? Totally disgusted as this is messing with out youths lives and futures . As if it has not been stressful and testing enough with all the mitigating factors in the current educational dilemma ?! Three quarters were marked as the teacher predicted ... what about the thousands who were the casualties of this unfair system who worked their butts of to be slapped in the face ? Not only marked with taking all these exceptional circumstances into consideration but marking down ???! Disgraceful. Going to appeal and am disgusted by the way the children have dealt with this year with their exam results . Casualties not of their own doing . [Redact 38(1)(b)]



## Enclosure no. 7

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] icloud.com>  
Sent: 04 August 2020 15:39  
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
Subject: SQA Fiasco

AO - [Redact 38(1)(b)]

I would like someone to explain the debacle that is the results of the SQA results. Children that have dedicated so many hours, days and months working towards an exam that would define their future aspirations, have today been told that they aren't good enough because of where they live and not based on individual merit. In every other area of life, people are judged on their performance, their potential and their ability to aspire. So before this goes further on ground of discrimination, I would like to know the explanation as to why this system of marking was given the go ahead and the qualifications of those in the position of marking . This is a National disgrace. My daughter was predicted AABBB and was awarded ABDDD. Her prelims and class work obviously not taken into consideration at all. There will be children the length and breadth of this country absolutely broken today and could be tragedies. From a country that has produced some of the leading experts in the world, this is a national embarrassment. Hang your heads in shame. Today is a sad day for Scotland

Yours

A former SNP supporter

## Enclosure no. 8

Your Reference:

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] ntlworld.com

Dear Sirs.

Following concerns expressed on my previous e-mail to you dated 27/05/20 I can confirm my fears have been realised. Please explain to me how a straight A student through Standard and Higher grades can have a school prediction of A for AH physics and the SQA reverse the schools recommendation to award a D !!!!. My daughter [Redact 38(1)(b)] has consistently performed well and her class exams and prelims this year in AH physics were no exception.

Hence the recommendation of the school for an A. We discussed with her school this morning and they fully support her in the appeal process. But having reviewed this it would appear this process is flawed. According to the paperwork we have received from the school today there is only three possible outcomes of an appeal.

1. Agree with original school estimate and update the candidate result accordingly
2. Disagree with school estimate and confirm grade awarded by SQA.
3. Disagree with both the school estimate and the original grade awarded by the SQA and apply an alternative LOWER GRADE.

This policy makes absolutely zero sense.

My daughter may well lose out on her chosen university place due to this. If she does I fully intend to support her in taking this matter further.

Yours Sincerely

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

(A very pissed off father)

## Enclosure no. 9

From: [Redact 38(1)(b)] .com>

Sent: 04 August 2020 14:23

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

<DFMCSE@gov.scot>

Subject: EXAM RESULTS

Dear Mr Swinney

My daughter took part in a call with you this morning. What you didn't see was the absolute devastation she was feeling when she got her results (just over an hour before speaking to you). Her predicted 4 As became 2 A, 1 B and 1 C. Rest assured the school will be appealing as her prelim results and her course work had all indicated that 4 As were expected (and deserved).

However, she is a trooper and pulled herself together enough to go in to school, meet other pupils and speak to you. She was disappointed you didn't ask her directly about her results but fears she would probably have burst into tears again anyway. After the call, she came home and cried again for another hour or so.

By lunchtime she is feeling more circumspect and hopeful that the appeals process will come through for her.

As a parent, I am very disappointed that the previous performance of the school in some subjects seems to have meant that my incredibly hard working, diligent and conscientious girl has missed out on important grades which she hoped would get her in to her intended course at university.

I urge you to make sure that the appeals process takes into account the work that pupils have done over the year, including their prelim result and assignments.

Regards

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

## Enclosure no.10

**From:** Rowley A (Alex), MSP <[Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2020 14:30  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<[DFMCSE@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSE@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: SQA results

Dear DFM

I am sure that you are being overrun by complaints from the results announced this morning.

[Redact 38(1)(b)] makes some very important points but at this stage can you advise if you are going to order a review of what has happened as we have many young people feeling cheated and abandoned

Alex

Alex Rowley MSP

**Office of Alex Rowley MSP**, Mid Scotland and Fife

0131 348 6827 / 01592 786725

Regional Office: Ore Valley Business Centre, 93 Main Street, Lochgelly, Fife, KY5 9AF

Parliamentary Office: M1.02, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

To find out more please visit: [www.alexrowley.org](http://www.alexrowley.org)

□ Before you print think about the environment

*Any personal data will be processed under GDPR. To read my privacy notice explaining how my office collects and uses personal information about individuals please visit:*

[www.alexrowley.org/privacy](http://www.alexrowley.org/privacy)

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] [hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hotmail.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2020 12:46  
**To:** Rowley A (Alex), MSP <[Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot)>  
**Subject:** SQA results

Dear Alex

I am writing as one of your constituents following the SQA exam results today. My eldest child has been awarded results lower than his prelim results. Whilst teachers would have had difficult decisions, this clearly shows that the system that SQA introduced to override teachers professional advice has failed. This needs to be addressed immediately as the system used is based on schools and a post code lottery biased against areas of deprivation and not on the individual student. I would like it explained to me how this approach meets GIRFEC approach and how the government oversaw and agreed to this clearly shocking approach by SQA, which also increases the attainment gap. The geographical spread of altered results needs to be looked at closely and I will be sending in a Freedom of Information request for this information. The Scottish Government said they wished to be judged on education in Scotland, and so they need to give a clear answer for their agreement to this years utter fiasco.

This needs to be looked at immediately before even more damage to children's futures and their mental health is inflicted on them.

Yours sincerely

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

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## Enclosure no.11

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] @sky.com>

**Sent:** 04 August 2020 15:05

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<DFMCSE@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; clare.haughey.msp@parliament.scot

**Subject:** 2020 - Forthcoming SQA Awards (and young people mental health) concerns

Dear Mr Swinney,

(I have copied in the Scottish minister email address as the website shows this as the contact details for the Minister for Mental Health - Clare Haughey)

We appreciate that these are hard times for everyone and that your decision to close the schools must have been an incredibly difficult one for you but a necessary one due to the extent of the Covid-19 outbreak.

At the outset of the school closures you said no child sitting exams would be disadvantaged by this situation.

I do understand that yourself, teaching staff and the SQA will all do the best you can under very trying conditions but I feel I must raise my concerns.

We have a 16 year old daughter - [Redact 38(1)(b)] - who is in her 5th year at [Redact 38(1)(b)] School in Edinburgh. Unfortunately due to anxiety and mental well being issues she barely left her room and missed a huge part of 3rd and 4th year meaning she was unable to sit any N5's in 4th year. With the help of her psychiatrist at [Redact 38(1)(b)] (been attending for two years), medication and the ongoing support of her guidance and teaching staff at the High School and a lot of hard work and determination on her part [Redact 38(1)(b)] has made great progress this year, was attaining over 90% attendance and after her prelim results all her teachers were predicting passes in the oncoming exams.

Having missed so much school [Redact 38(1)(b)] has been on a upward trajectory this term and was carrying good momentum into the exam period.

However now that term can't be completed one teacher who was predicting a C (possibly even a B with a concentrated effort) is now talking about presenting her for a D because of the early closure - she has a private tutor for this subject and she says that not being presented for at least a C is extremely harsh.

My concerns are twofold:

As all other teachers are sticking with their assessment that [Redact 38(1)(b)] would pass her oncoming exams she is left with a feeling of disappointment and lack of fairness on the revised approach of this one teacher - after the progress she has made this year [Redact 38(1)(b)] was actually looking forward to sitting these exams as she missed this experience last year - how does know that she will be fairly assessed on this subject?

My second concern is outwith your control but I feel should still be mentioned, lots of parents like ourselves who have young people with mental health issues will be worried that these

enforced closures

Will be breaking the daily routine and losing the confidence achieving this gives them, will agencies such as [Redact 38(1)(b)] be given additional support during and after this medical emergency to support these children and the additional children caused anxiety by these closures?

We would appreciate you views on the above and we look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)]  
Edinburgh, [Redact 38(1)(b)]  
Mobiles: [Redact 38(1)(b)]



## Enclosure no.12

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2020 18:00  
**To:** Scottish Ministers <Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** SQA RESULTS

Hi Jamie

To say I am beyond furious at my son's exam results today is an understatement.

He went from an A in his Nat 5 English, an A in his prelim & no issues in his coursework to obtaining a D in his Higher results today is a disgrace. And to read the stats produced on how this is calculated in lower affluent areas is unbelievable to me.

I hope this is looked into seriously. He no longer has a future in attending his college course.

Look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Regards

[Redact 38(1)(b)]

## Enclosure no.13

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] @gmail.com>

**Sent:** 04 August 2020 18:09

**To:** Alexander.Burnett.msp@parliament.scot; Scottish Ministers

<Scottish\_Ministers@gov.scot>; customer@sqa.org.uk;

Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot; Peter.Chapman.msp@parliament.scot;

Liam.Kerr.msp@parliament.scot; gavin.williamson.mp@parliament.uk

**Subject:** Urgent SQA Results

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a Scottish student just having finished my sixth year of school that finished early due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following achieving my Higher Results in fifth year, gaining as much work experience as I could fit in and studying hard to raise my attainment - I was awarded 3 conditional offers into Veterinary Medicine at Surgery at [Redact 38(1)(b)] , for starting September 2020. Note: These are English universities as the entry requirements are harder for Scotland than England, I guess this is because Scottish universities require more foreign students than English ones to keep their finances afloat. However this is a discussion for another time.

Today, 4th August 2020, I have received my SQA Results after not having sat any of my Advanced Higher exams this year. For the last three years I have studied all three sciences; biology, chemistry and physics and have always achieved A and B's. This morning I was devastated to find that I had been awarded with grades lower than this. An A, B and C; despite my ongoing commitment throughout the whole of sixth year. Therefore I have not achieved my condition of AA to get into the profession that I have worked so hard towards throughout my entire school career.

Is it guaranteed that the English system will downgrade their students too? If they don't then the competition for university spaces for people like myself is truly unfair.

During this pandemic it has been stated many, many times that no student will be disadvantaged because of the current climate. Well, I can safely say that I have been disadvantaged. I've spent the last 4 months working and worrying about these results; being told constantly by everyone around me - that be friends, family, the public and yourselves - that everything will be fine. This is not fine.

I hope that something is done to resolve this issue. There is now a generation of young people who cannot go forward into their prospective careers due to the decisions that have been made.

I would be grateful for your reply at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

[Redact 38(1)(b)] Email: [Redact 38(1)(b)] @gmail.com

Phone: [Redact 38(1)(b)]



**Enclosure no.14**

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] @gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 04 August 2020 18:08  
**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <DFMCSE@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** SQA Highers

Following the SQA awards issued today and John Swinney's March statement that those unable to sit exams would not be disadvantaged in any way,

"I want the 2020 cohort to hold their heads high and get the qualifications they deserve."

this has not been our now s6 daughter, [Redact 38(1)(b)] experience. She currently attends [Redact 38(1)(b)] School, [Redact 38(1)(b)]. We do not believe that her awards have been fully based on,

*"...coursework, teacher assessments of estimated grades and prior attainment as the basis of certification."*

as the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills suggested.

Her modest, reported predictions, following her Higher Prelims, at February's Parents' Evening were:

Chemistry	B	awarded C
English	A	awarded A
French	A	awarded A
Biology	A	awarded B
Maths	C	awarded C

She's disappointed that the SQA results reflect that her school's departments have downgraded what they were predicting for her (the results are identical to the school's submitted ones). Thus, leaving no appeal process and giving her results that are less than the achievable ones needed for her chosen University course? When she received these this morning, we all thought that the SQA had let her down but it appears that her own school has! We're communicating with them now but fear she has no voice. The school said that they will provide evidence and we wish to receive a copy of this.

The awards in Biology & Chemistry do not reflect her predictions, her straight A Nat 5s, her continuous work effort and conscientiousness or consider the fact that, along with her peers, she did not have the opportunity to sit the exams and get justified results. Looking at both her Chemistry and Maths Nat 5 prelims, they went up 1-2 grades, as she knuckled down and worked hard on the past papers. She had just acquired an external maths tutor, who was fairly confident that with work and focus she would achieve a B if not an A. More concerning is that her personal circumstances were not taken into account. I informed the school, at the start of lockdown, that she had been working long hours (20+/wk) with a new job acquired at Christmas and had not focused enough on Prelim study, believing like many of her peers that the 'REAL' importance was the May exams. After the Prelim results she had written to her work to say that due to her Highers she needed only Saturday hours or would have to quit.

The school marking, the process, the outcome and not having any opportunity to sit an exam are something that we believe has to be re-looked at. If the school's evidence appears weak, we would like some other form of independent appeal. These young people have been badly let down despite promises to the contrary.

Barring any appeal, she would like the chance to sit these exams at no disadvantage, alongside her 6th year choices, and not as resits. We would like ScotGov assurance that Universities will not look at them as resits if a student wishes to sit them for the first time with the next opportunity to do so. It appears the results issued today are being treated like previous results gained after sitting an exam, in the eyes of further education etc. and not as a certification model created due to a pandemic? We believe that come Autumn students in England can sit exams if they think they can improve on them and we see no reason that Scottish students should be disadvantaged by not having the same opportunity?

We look forward to your thoughts and considerations for how to REALLY make sure 2020 students get the results that they deserve fairly.

Sincerely,

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)]



## Enclosure no. 15

Your Reference: SQA results

[Redact 38(1)(b)] ,

[Redact 38(1)(b)] .com

I am emailing for a complaint, the scottish government and the sqa is classist and it's shown through the predict grades system, people from less deprived schools have failed prelims and walked away with A's and B's while people from the 0-20% have had exam results cut down from A's to C's and even fails, it's stopping a lot of people from escaping poverty by not letting them go to uni, and i am appalled by this, students from the more deprived areas were ready to take exams as they work harder to make something out of themselves, and the whole predicted grades system only benefits those from middle class and upwards households and i'm emailing to ask the sqa and the government to reevaluate the exam results.



## Enclosure no. 16

Your Reference: SQA

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] com

Hi

This has been a total shambles this year why have 96% of kids been marked down so many hard working kids have been given fails I really hope the government are going to look into this kids have lost so much schooling now this will knock so many kids confidence and cause so much distress for them I really worry for kids mental health as a parent I am really disappointed in this system you as a government need to investigate this shambles A concerned parent



## Enclosure no.17

Your Reference: FAO Mr Swinney  
[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] gmail.com

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)]  
Good afternoon,

I am writing to you about the results that my son received today for his Higher exams. He is devastated! He achieved A and B results in his National 5 exams in 2019 and these have fallen this year to C, D and two F awards!

How can this be?

I appreciate that he did not perform well in his prelims due to family circumstances and the fact that the exams were moved to before Christmas for the first time however, these results do not reflect what my child was capable of achieving had he been allowed to sit an exam. Some of the course work had not even been taught and you have asked teachers to base their decisions on the prelim results.

What has been put in place for these children who we know do not “pull their socks up” until the exams? He is definitely suffering as a result of the Scottish Government’s decision to cancel the exams in 2020.

Can you please advise us?

Sincerely,  
[Redact 38(1)(b)]

## Enclosure no.18

**From:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] [@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:[Redact 38(1)(b)]@yahoo.co.uk)

**Sent:** 04 August 2020 17:12

**To:** [Redact 38(1)(b)] [gov.uk](mailto:[Redact 38(1)(b)]@gov.uk)

**Cc:** Swinney J (John), MSP <[John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot)>; Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <[Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot)>; Coffey W (Willie), MSP <[Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot)>

**Subject:** EDUCATIONAL NEGLIGENCE AT [Redact 38(1)(b)] (MATHS DEPARTMENT)

Good Evening,

I would like the following matter thoroughly investigated which has been detrimental to my daughter's education and you will see that through the timing of events under the control of the school she has suffered academically through no fault of her own leading to no award being given thereby potentially affecting her ability to attend University. We request that these exceptional circumstances be taken into consideration to facilitate an appeal on grading as the SQA process has no provision in this area.

- 1. The teacher, head of department and school was responsible for my daughter [Redact 38(1)(b)] education and had a duty of care towards her education.** The school failed her re Higher Maths.
- 2. The teacher and school HAS NOT provided the level of education they could REASONABLY have been expected to provide.** See info below.  
This was only discovered in JANUARY AFTER THE PRELIM RESULTS were issued and we were shocked to discover that my daughter had only scored 16% which we could not understand. SEE APPENDIX NOTE.
- 3. As a consequence of the school's negligence [Redact 38(1)(b)] has suffered in the SQA Higher Maths result and has been awarded a fail. Maths is a subject she requires for University.**

### APPENDIX NOTE RELATED TO BULLET POINT 2

It became apparent that the Maths teacher [Redact 38(1)(b)] had only issued 2 pieces of homework in the period from August until the Prelims in December. We believe and understand that for this subject a reasonable amount of homework should have been 2-3 hours per week. We contacted the school early January and spoke to [Redact 38(1)(b)] who is the Deputy Head about the lack of homework and she arranged for [Redact 38(1)(b)] who is the Head of Maths to call. Both [Redact 38(1)(b)] and [Redact 38(1)(b)] were unaware of the level of homework and agreed it was unacceptable and [Redact 38(1)(b)] said that [Redact 38(1)(b)] would be spoken to.

We understand that the other maths class group taught by [Redact 38(1)(b)] performed significantly better in the prelims and they were being given homework several times every week.

By now [Redact 38(1)(b)] was attending a private maths tutor arranged by us to help her catch up with the teaching lost on the subject.

Two weeks later my daughter [Redact 38(1)(b)] advised that she had still not been given any homework by [Redact 38(1)(b)] and we called and spoke to [Redact 38(1)(b)] again, [Redact 38(1)(b)] again expressed that this was unacceptable and he would speak to [Redact 38(1)(b)] again and advised that [Redact 38(1)(b)] was leaving.

had a new Maths teacher [Redact 38(1)(b)] from the beginning of February and found him to be much better, was going to supported study and getting 2 extra periods per week as well as continuing with the private maths tutor.

[Redact 38(1)(b)] followed the School's Mentoring Program (available to all pupils doing 5 Highers) with [Redact 38(1)(b)] and as at week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March (copies attached) [Redact 38(1)(b)] was targeted at Grade C and working at Grade C for maths. Comments from the maths teacher [Redact 38(1)(b)] stated, homework completed, supported study attended, excellent effort in class and no subject concerns.

We are therefore frustrated and angry that the schools has submitted a recommended fail award when this is attributable to their negligence for the reasons stated above. We have contacted the school and raised our concerns. We will not accept that there is nothing more you can do in this matter.

I look forward to your reply on this matter.

Thanks.

[Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)] [Redact 38(1)(b)]

## Enclosure 18.1

Student report attached to 18.1

[Redact 38(1)(b)]