

Annex - 202100222833

Responses from Local Authorities

Aberdeen City Council

From: Eleanor Sheppard [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 June 2021 17:54

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: ACM information

Hi [REDACTED],

1. Can you confirm that it is only demonstrated assessment evidence of young people, judged by teachers/schools and supported by quality assurance processes based on national standards, that will determine provisional grades?

YES/NO

If no, can you provide further detail

2. Can you confirm that historical attainment data has not been used by the local authority to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools?

YES/NO

If no, can you provide further detail

I am however, really concerned that many of our staff are reporting that others are applying similar approaches to last year and I'm having to spend a lot of time reassuring staff that we are working to our guidance and 'demonstrated' attainment. It's an unhelpful concern for staff who are now anxious that they will disadvantage young people by sticking to the rules. However, I can cast iron guarantee, that we are sticking to the rules!

Kindest regards,
Eleanor

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East Ayrshire Council

From: McGinn, Graham [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 June 2021 09:40

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: "Education Scotland request for ACM information" [OFFICIAL]

CLASSIFICATION: OFFICIAL

Good morning, [REDACTED]

The answer to both questions is yes.

However, it was only a short time ago that Education Scotland scrutinised how we had implemented the Alternative Certification Model up to that point and our plans for the remainder of the session. The scrutiny involved HMIE Inspectors meeting with the Head of Education, central Education Officers, secondary Head Teachers and Depute Head Teachers who have SQA Coordination responsibilities, Teachers and Union representatives. The content of the questions below were covered in these discussions and the feedback that we received following the engagement with HMIE Inspectors was very positive. Is this now being called into question with the requirement to confirm our responses to the questions below?

Graham
Graham McGinn
Strategic Leadership Manager
East Ayrshire Council

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East Renfrewshire Council

From: Ratter, Mark [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 June 2021 17:01

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: "Education Scotland request for ACM information"

Dear Patricia and Craig

Thank you for your email.

Given the review that Education Scotland recently carried out of our LA including meeting with all Head Teachers and a group of staff I was disappointed by the requirement to provide further clarification. These areas were discussed in full with the inspection team and confirmed by the staff focus groups. Indeed, the feedback from the inspectors noted that within ERC *'there was a clear and well planned approach to all aspects of the ACM. This was fully negotiated, well communicated and appreciated by school staff.'*

In terms of the specifics below, I can confirm in both cases – Yes.

Kind regards

Mark

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Fife Council

From: Maria Lloyd [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 June 2021 09:12

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: ACM response to ES

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find the response from Fife Education and Children services below.

1. Can you confirm that it is only demonstrated assessment evidence of young people, judged by teachers/schools and supported by quality assurance processes based on national standards, that will determine provisional grades?

YES

2. Can you confirm that historical attainment data has not been used by the local authority to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools?

YES

For further information or detail please contact me on [REDACTED].

Please also find the details of our process across Fife.



SQA Guidance for
Practitioners 7.6.21 fir

Kind regards

Maria

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North Ayrshire Council

From: Andrew McClelland (Head of Service / Chief Officer) [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 June 2021 21:34

To: Watson PA (Patricia) [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: "Education Scotland request for ACM information" - NORTH AYRSHIRE RESPONSE

Patricia,

It is disappointing that we are being asked questions such as these when we have already clearly set out our processes and engaged in an inspection to give this very type of reassurance that we are implementing not only the letter but also the spirit of the ACM. I suspect some of the furore stems from a misinterpretation of the wording in the Education Scotland report itself, particularly on page 6, which appears to make more of the use of historical data than is advisable, in my opinion.

Nevertheless, these questions are very straightforward to answer:

1. Can you confirm that it is only demonstrated assessment evidence of young people, judged by teachers/schools and supported by quality assurance processes based on national standards, that will determine provisional grades?

YES

2. Can you confirm that historical attainment data has not been used by the local authority to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools?

YES

Kind regards,
Andrew

Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)
Communities Directorate
North Ayrshire Council
Cunninghame House
Irvine
KA12 8EE
Tel: [REDACTED]

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Perth and Kinross Council

From: Sharon Johnston [REDACTED]

Sent: 14 June 2021 17:58

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: Education Scotland Request for ACM Information

Dear [REDACTED]

In response to the query from Patricia Watson about the ACM implementation, please find the response for PKC education service:

1. Can you confirm that it is only demonstrated assessment evidence of young people, judged by teachers/schools and supported by quality assurance processes based on national standards, that will determine provisional grades?

PKC response: yes. Only demonstrated assessment evidence determined provisional grades.

2. Can you confirm that historical attainment data has not been used by the local authority to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools?

PKC response: yes . No assessment judgements by teachers/schools will be unilaterally changed by the LA

Please get back if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Head of Education and Learning

Education & Children's Services

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Perth

PH1 5PH

☐: [REDACTED] – Work Mobile

☐ :[REDACTED] – Personal Mobile

☐: [REDACTED]

Annex - 202100222833

West Dunbartonshire Council

From: Andrew Brown (Education Service Manager) [REDACTED]

Sent: 15 June 2021 08:47

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: "Education Scotland request for ACM information"

Dear [REDACTED]

In response to your two questions from West Dunbartonshire –

1. Can you confirm that it is only demonstrated assessment evidence of young people, judged by teachers/schools and supported by quality assurance processes based on national standards, that will determine provisional grades?

YES

2. Can you confirm that historical attainment data has not been used by the local authority to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools?

YES

Following our well established processes, historical attainment data has been used to frame professional dialogue with presenting centres. For the last six years we have undertaken analysis of estimates against resulting awards in an effort to identify where further CLPL is needed to ensure a consistent approach to understanding standards. This is part of our quality assurance process at local authority level. Whilst this exercise looks at historic attainment data, it is not used to unilaterally change any assessment judgements made by teachers/schools.

I hope this helps.

Regards,
Andrew

Andrew Brown

Senior Education Officer | Education, Learning & Attainment | West
Dunbartonshire Council

In Person: Floor 2 | Council Offices | 16 Church Street | Dumbarton | G82 1QL

Phone: [REDACTED]