

**From:** [Redact] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 19 July 2021 10:28  
**To:** [Redact]  
**Cc:** McAllister C (Colin); Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; [Redact]  
**Subject:** FW: Q&A session  
**Attachments:** SQA Summary questions.docx; Appendix 1 QandA with themes .xlsx

Hi folks

Please find attached a range of questions received from SQA staff for Ms Somerville that were not able to be answered during the recent SQA event. Cab Sec indicated that she was happy to receive these questions [Redact]. I discussed this briefly with Colin and we thought that answering the themes may be best/most practical way forward although Colin was happy to have a look [Redact].

[Redact] – it would be helpful if we could have a draft response for Cab Sec to consider on her return from leave.

Many thanks.

[Redact]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: [Redact] | M[Redact] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot)

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**From:** [Redact]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2021 09:38  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <[CabSecES@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecES@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Q&A session

Dear [Redact],

As you know, the Q&A session with the Cabinet Secretary on 29 June, elicited far more questions than could be answered on the day and we undertook to provide the full list of questions. A full list of questions, as asked by SQA staff, is provided. To make it easier to provide answers, we have summarised these into broad themes and removed duplication. I hope this is helpful to you and officials.

It is very clear that the questions reflect the strength of feeling following the announcement of 21 June from a number of colleagues across SQA, and at the end of a very challenging year. We are keen to ensure that SQA staff can actively engage fully and positively in the review process, reflecting the skills, knowledge, and experience of colleagues across the organisation. As a first step, we note the Cabinet Secretary's intention to more fully consult on the remit for Ken Mur's review. We look forward to further communications on that.

Please convey our thanks to the Cabinet Secretary for speaking to staff at this time. The opportunity to provide meaningful input to the review process - a commitment the Cabinet Secretary made to staff - together with clear communications throughout, will undoubtedly help address the concerns colleagues have.

Kind regards

[Redact]

[Redact]

Head of Chief Executive's Office  
Corporate Office

**Scottish Qualifications Authority**

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