

## INDEX OF ENCLOSURES

Description	Date	Explanation of redactions	Clause
Enclosure 001, FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education due 11am Tuesday 1st June	27 May 2021 14:30	Out of scope	~
Enclosure 001.1, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 002, FW: 2022 National Qualifications approach - briefing note - 27 May 2021	31 May 2021 16:26	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 003, FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - due 11am Monday 7th June	04 June 2021 14:36	Out of scope Personal information	~ S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 004, FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - due 11am Monday 14th June	10 June 2021 13:45	Out of scope Personal information	~ S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 004.1, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 005, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	14 June 2021 17:42	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 005.1, Attachment: 2022 National Qualifications Approach - Update		Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 006, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	17 June 2021 17:41	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 007, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	18 June 2021 08:24	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 007.1, Attachment: Summary of Young people's views about assessment 2022			
Enclosure 008, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	18 June 2021 11:36	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 009, FW: National Qualifications - 2022 approach options - June 2021	23 June 2021 15:01	Personal information Confidential Information	S38(1)(b) S36(1)
Enclosure 010, FW: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS	24 June 2021 17:36	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 010.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	~ S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)

		Confidential Information	S36(1)
Enclosure 011, FW: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS	28 June 2021 15:01	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 012, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	30 June 2021 13:06	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 012.1, Attachment: LEARNER PANEL V2		Out of scope Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	~ S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 013, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021	01 July 2021 08:08	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 014, FW: Qualifications - Update	09 July 2021 17:03	Out of scope Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	~ S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 015, FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS	14 July 2021 09:00	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 015.1, Attachment: FW: Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments	13 July 2021 12:35	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 015.1.1, Letter from Secretary of State		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 016, FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS	16 July 2021 10:22	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 016.1, Attachment: Email FW: Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments		Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 016.1.1, Attachment:PDF		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 017, FW: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7	21 July 2021 18:28	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 017.1, Attachment: Options Paper ACM 2022 for NQ WG 21		Free and frank exchange of views Out of scope	s.30(b)(ii) ~
Enclosure 018, FW: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7	23 July 2021 09:25	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)

Enclosure 019, FW: Briefing - Mr Hepburn meeting with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) - 29 July 2021 at 4pm	27 July 2021 12:04	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 019.1, Attachment: Word Doc: Learning for Sustainability and STEM - Briefing		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 020, FW: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please	27 July 2021 20:13	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 021, FW: CERG 62 - agenda and papers	29 July 2021 06:59	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 021.1, Attachment: Pdf Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 021.2, Attachment: Pdf Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 021.3, Attachment: Pdf Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 021.4, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 022, FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: First Minister's statement to Parliament - Preparations and Guidance for resumption of HE and FE - update requested by 0930 hours 3 August	02 August 2021 13:37	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 022.1, Attachment: Word Doc: FE-HE and Students		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 023, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	04 August 2021 16:24	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 023.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views Personal information Ministerial communications Out of scope Confidential Information (withheld)	s.30(b)(ii) S38(1)(b) S29(1)(b) ~ S36(1)
Enclosure 024, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	05 August 2021 09:54	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 025, FW: Media query - immediate - SQA op ed on exams – Herald	06 August 2021 16:30	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 026, FW: Letter from Fiona Robertson, SQA - Assessment Arrangements for National Courses in 2021/22	09 August 2021 13:02	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 026.1, Attachment: Letter from Fiona Robertson to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 027, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day core narrative - meeting at 4pm	09 August 2021 15:30	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 027.1, Attachment: Word Doc: Exam Diet 2021 - Briefing		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 028, FW: SQA Results 2021 - Official Sensitive - Restricted Statistics until 9.30am on Tuesday 10th August 2021	09 August 2021 20:47	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 028.1, Attachment: Word Doc –NQ – Results Day 10 Aug – Briefing		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 028.2, Attachment: Word Doc – Core Narrative		Out of scope	~

Enclosure 029, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material	10 August 2021 08:59	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 029.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 029.2, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 030, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material	10 August 2021 09:38	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 030.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 030.2, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 031, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS	10 August 2021 16:46	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 031.1, Attachment: Cab Sec ES to First Minister – School Exams 2021-2022		Ministerial communications	S29(1)(b)
Enclosure 032, FW: Submission - Education Recovery Strategy - Near final version for comment	10 August 2021 17:46	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 032.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 032.2, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 033, FW: Briefing Note 2022 Assessment Arrangements	10 August 2021 18:42	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 033.1, Attachment: Word Doc – Briefing Pack		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 034, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	10 August 2021 19:47	Personal information Out of scope Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) ~ s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 035, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS	11 August 2021 12:32	Ministerial communications Personal information	S29(1)(b) S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 036, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS	11 August 2021 12:39	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 037, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS	11 August 2021 12:51	Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 038, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	11 August 2021 13:35	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 038.1, Attachment: FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS			
Enclosure 039, FW: NQs 2022	11 August 2021 16:16	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views Out of scope	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii) ~
Enclosure 040, FW: CERG 63 - agenda and papers	11 August 2021 19:34	Personal information Out of scope	S38(1)(b) ~
Enclosure 040.1, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~

Enclosure 040.2, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 040.3, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 040.4, Attachment: Word doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 040.5, Attachment: PDF doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 041, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	13 August 2021 17:13	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views Out of scope	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii) ~
Enclosure 041.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 042, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	13 August 2021 17:59	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 042.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 043, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	13 August 2021 20:50	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 043.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)]
Enclosure 044, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	14 August 2021 09:43	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 044.1, Attachment: SAS_edit_QUALIFICATIONS 2022 Cabinet Paper		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 045, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	14 August 2021 11:07	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 046, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	14 August 2021 16:34	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 046.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 046.2, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 047, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	15 August 2021 10:48	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 047.1, Attachment: QUALIFICATIONS 2022 Cabinet Paper		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 048, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	15 August 2021 11:05		
Enclosure 048.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)

Enclosure 049, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	15 August 2021 19:55		
Enclosure 049.1, Attachment: Word Doc Qualifications 2022 Cabinet Paper – 17 Aug		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 050, FW: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills - Meeting with Eileen Prior Executive Director Connect - 18th August 2021	16 August 2021 15:08	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 050.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 051, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	16 August 2021 17:28	Free and frank exchange of views Personal information	s.30(b)(ii) S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 052, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	16 August 2021 18:08	Free and frank exchange of views Personal information	s.30(b)(ii) S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 053, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22	16 August 2021 18:22	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views Out of scope	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii) ~
Enclosure 054, FW: Speaking note	16 August 2021 19:09	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 054.1, Attachment: FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22			
Enclosure 055, FW: Speaking note	16 August 2021 20:49	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 055.1, Attachment: Qualification 2022 Cabinet Paper – 17 Aug – Speaking Note		Free and frank exchange of views	s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 056, FW: Speaking note	17 August 2021 08:04	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 057, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022	17 August 2021 11:11	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 057.1, Attachment: Word Doc			
Enclosure 058, FW: Updated Education Recovery Next Steps document for comment	17 August 2021 19:12	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 058.1, Attachment: Word Doc		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 059, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022	17 August 2021 21:35	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 060, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022	18 August 2021 09:07	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 061, FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet	18 August 2021 09:28	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 062, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack	18 August 2021 10:07	Personal information	S38(1)(b)

Enclosure 062.1, Attachment: ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2022		Out of scope	~
Enclosure 063, FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet	18 August 2021 12:30	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 064, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack	18 August 2021 14:19	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 065, FW: Exams announcement reaction	18 August 2021 14:24	Personal information	S38(1)(b)
Enclosure 066, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack	18 August 2021 14:49	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)
Enclosure 067, FW: Bid - GMS - exams 2022 - Thursday 19 August	18 August 2021 19:44	Personal information Free and frank exchange of views	S38(1)(b) s.30(b)(ii)

**Enclosure 001, FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education due 11am  
Tuesday 1st June**

**Out of Scope**

**No decisions have yet been taken in relation to the 2021/22 qualifications approach.**

- *Discussions will be held with stakeholders through the National Qualifications 2021 Group based on latest public health advice, and a decision made in time to allow centres to plan for delivery from the start of the new academic session.*
- *Contingencies will be considered to allow for any further disruption to learning that may occur.*

**Out of scope**



**Enclosure 002, FW: 2022 National Qualifications approach - briefing note - 27 May 2021**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 31 May 2021 16:26

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: 2022 National Qualifications approach - briefing note - 27 May 2021

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Ms Somerville has seen your note and commented:

*[redacted s.30 (b)(ii)]*

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot)

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 27 May 2021 19:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** 2022 National Qualifications approach - briefing note - 27 May 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

cc. as above

## 2022 National Qualifications approach

Please find attached a briefing note providing an update on current SQA proposals in relation to assessment of the graded National Courses for academic year 2021-22. This matter may be raised following the parliamentary statement next Wednesday (2 June).

Kind regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate, Scottish Government, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

✉ email: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot 📞 mobile: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] 🌐 url: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].



<Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Ferguson D (David) <David.Ferguson3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - due 11am Monday 7th June

Hi folks

*Out of scope*

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Room 1N.04, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

(0131) 244 0144 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]



You can find more detailed information on answering PQs here [Answering Parliamentary Questions \(PQs\)](#)

You can also [download the PQs desk aid to print out and keep](#). It summarises the process and important timings to remember for delivering PQs each week.

If you or anyone in your team require any training/awareness in PQs please get in touch

---

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox

**Sent:** 03 June 2021 12:45

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot [redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Director for Children and Families

<DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>;

McAloon HC (Hugh) <Hugh.McAloon@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Cameron R (Robbie)

<Robbie.Cameron@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew)

<Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - due 11am Monday 7th June

Dear Colleagues,

*Out of scope*

*Out of scope*

<i>Out of scope</i>	<b>SQA (Exams) Contacts [Redacted s38(1)(b)]</b>
<i>Out of scope</i>	



(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Director for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; McAloon HC (Hugh) <Hugh.McAloon@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Bruce A (Andrew) <Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FMQ Brief Commission Request - Education - due 11am Monday 14th June

Dear Colleagues,

*Out of scope*

<i>Out of scope</i>	
<i>Out of scope</i>	<b>SQA (Exams) Contacts</b> [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
<i>Out of scope</i>	

*Out of scope*

**No decisions have been taken in relation to the 2021/22 qualifications approach.**

- Discussions will be held with stakeholders through the National Qualifications 2021 Group based on latest public health advice, and a decision made in time to allow centres to plan for delivery from the start of the new academic session.
- Contingencies will be considered to allow for any further disruption to learning that may occur.
- Decisions regarding timetabling are for individual local authorities and schools.
- The Scottish Government's key priority remains educating children safely while affording them the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

*Out of scope*



**Enclosure 005, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:42

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLeangov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached a short, urgent update on SQA proposals in relation to arrangements for assessment of National Courses for academic year 2021-22 [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

## **Enclosure 005.1, Attachment: 2022 National Qualifications Approach - Update**

From: Malcolm Pentland

Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
14 June 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

### **2022 National Qualifications Approach - Update**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an update on SQA proposals in relation to arrangements for assessment of National Courses for academic year 2021-22 [redacted s.30 (b)(ii)]

#### **Priority**

2. **Urgent** – [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

#### **Background**

3. Briefing on the working assumption in relation to the approach to the assessment of national qualifications in 2022 was set out in a submission from [Redacted s38(1)(b)] on 27 May 2021. Since then the SQA has ensured further consideration of the proposed approach by the National Qualifications 2021 Group and the SQA's Qualifications Committee. We understand that the SQA Board approved the approach last week and that the Chief Examiner will be writing to you imminently. She will set out the approach in more detail and seek your support for it.
4. The SQA recognises the significance of the work being done by the OECD and the implications of this for future of National Courses and their assessment but also emphasise that some time will be required to develop the next generation of National Courses. It will, therefore, propose that for the 2021-22 academic year:
  - an examination diet takes place in April/May 2022 with external assessment of both question papers and coursework (subject to the public health position making it safe to do so);
  - there would be course modifications to take account of the loss of learning and restrictions on time as learners; and
  - the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) developed for this year (and reviewed for potential improvements) would be used as the contingency should the examination diet subsequently need to be cancelled.

5. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

#### **Recommendation**

6. The you:
  - note this update and that the Chief Examiner will be writing to you imminently setting out SQA's proposals for the assessment of National Courses next academic year;

- [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Malcolm Pentland  
Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
14 June 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, Youth Employment and Training			X		
DG Education and Justice Director of Learning [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Analysis Sam Anson, Learning Directorate Mick Wilson, Learning Directorate Andy Drought, Learning Directorate Liza McLean, Learning Directorate Alison Taylor, Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)], SGLD [Redacted s38(1)(b)], SGLD [Redacted s38(1)(b)], SGLD Comms Education [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Comms Colin McAllister, Special Adviser					

**Enclosure 006, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update – 14 June 2021**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 June 2021 17:41

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG

Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A

(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)

<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education

<SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

DPS/Cabinet Secretary

Copy: as above

**National Qualifications - 2022 approach**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)] I am expecting to receive these tonight/first thing tomorrow and will share them as soon as possible.

Thanks

Malcolm

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm)

**Sent:** 17 June 2021 10:27

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

<CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG

Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A

(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)

<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education  
<SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Just a quick update. I had an initial discussion with SYP yesterday (Liam Fowley MSYP and Ben  
McKendrick, CEO of SYP). I am making arrangements to speak to NASUWT and SSTA today. [redacted  
s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Malcolm

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 June 2021 08:12  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm)  
<Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG  
Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A  
(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)  
<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education  
<SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Morning Malcolm,

Ms Somerville has a small follow up to below. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | T: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot) | The Scottish Government  
| St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 13:28  
**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and  
Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG  
Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Hi Malcolm,

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)] I would be grateful for further advice.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 June 2021 17:42

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached a short, urgent update on SQA proposals in relation to arrangements for assessment of National Courses for academic year 2021-22. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks

Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**Enclosure 007, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 June 2021 08:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLeangov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooleygov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

DPS/Cabinet Secretary

Copy: as above

**National Qualifications - 2022 approach – SYP Views**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)] We can explore the possibility of that with SQA immediately if it would be helpful.

Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 16 June 2021 10:13

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A

(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Hi Malcolm,

Thank you for sending up, Ms Somerville would like to know what the SYP think [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | T: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot) | The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 15 June 2021 17:04  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science <MinisterFEHES@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

On the approach to **course modifications**, the NQ21 Group agreed the parameters for retaining or amending modifications to National Course assessments for 2021-22 at its 21 April meeting.

On the holding of an **exam diet** in 2022 (with the ACM as contingency), the SQA provided the NQ21 Group with an update on its proposals at the last meeting (11 June). [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Malcolm



**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

***This chain diverges from Enclosure 006 at the email of 15 June 2021 13:28***

## **Enclosure 007.1, Attachment: Summary of Young people's views about assessment 2022**

### **Young people's views about assessment 2022 - Data gathered from young people in June 2021**

Please note that we have gathered the views below from a small group of young people within a very tight timescale (less than 24 hours) at the request of Scottish Government officials. These views are not representative and, as such, we would be grateful if they were shared privately with officials and the Cabinet Secretary only.

Many young people feel their rights have not been upheld in decision-making on exams and assessment this year. Going forward, we feel it is essential that this is resolved, and that young people are put at the heart of these decisions.

While we recognise that timescales are very tight, we feel that young people do need to be consulted in a meaningful way on assessments 2022. The Learner Panel that we deliver for SQA would be a good vehicle for gathering these views in a meaningful way, with the appropriate timescales in place, and subject to agreement with SQA.

#### **Should we go back to an exam system?**

- *"I sat my Nat5 exams in the old system. I think it works for certain people and others not so much. I think it does not test pupils knowledge in a fair way and having one chance to prove yourself isn't enough."*
- *"Anyone I've spoke to all have different opinions, some people want the old exam system back and others are completely against it but I guess it just depends on how people learn and like to be tested on their knowledge".*
- *"I feel the old system tested everybody equally as we all sat the same exams at the same time therefore no cheating could be done like this years TikTok escapade. Also, the ACM is such a stress on teachers. They have to mark all the 'assessments' as well as keep up with teaching and other marking. This system is not fair on them."*
- *From what I've heard from my friends most people want the old exam system only because their qualifications are viewed as more valid and worth something - so if the other system could guarantee validity then more people would want it. There is a lot of misconceptions that grades were just handed out this year and last year and people worry that universities don't regard them to the same level as previous years. If we did return to an exam system i think significant modification would be necessary. it shouldn't all depend on a one day exam and should include more aspects of class work etc*

#### **If we did go back to an exam system, what should we change about it to make it better?**

- *"If we were to go back to the old exam system I think the SQA and the government need to ensure students are taught the areas that they will be questioned on in the paper because in subjects like Maths it's such a broad subject and having more specific teaching in the weeks leading up to the exam can help pupils understand certain areas to a better extent."*

- *“There has to be some sort of assurance that students are taught key areas in the exam for example this year for my higher RMPS, I was not taught the philosophical part of the course then the SQA said they needed that part and I had a week to learn the entire philosophical course and sit my ‘assessment’.”*

**Should we keep the ACM assessments system in some form rather than returning to exams?**

- *“I think the ACM in a way better state is what is best. But it only works if it’s used fairly and properly unlike this year.”*
- *“In my opinion the ACM was a duplicate of the old Exam system, the only difference is that we sat the papers at different times and they were internally marked.”*
- *“As someone that’s being doing them the past few days, and have one today, (the 2021 system) is not very good. As others have said; no study leave and still having to go to other classes even though you might have an exam later that day in another subject - additionally we’ve had very short notice about timetables + they’re all jam-packed together over the space of 1 or 2 weeks for the most part”*
- *“Papers must be sat at the same time to stop leaks, there must be clear rules about “resits”, there must be exceptional circumstances appeals”*

**If we did keep the ACM assessment model, is there anything that needs to change about it?**

- *“The teachers should not have to mark them, I’ve seen how stressed they’ve become with that extra workload and some teachers have told me it’s not even worth the money. All schools need to be as similar as possible, none of the one school does multiple exams in one week whereas the next school does them spaced out. They also need to space assessments out from the beginning till the end of the year so it doesn’t replicate a normal school year as it did this year. Also if COVID is still around, self isolation and being off because you have COVID need to be taken into consideration because some people I know have had weeks off school due to this.”*
- *“If they were continuing with the ACM, there would need to be assessments throughout the year and not just at the end of the year like this year was.”*
- *“The schools were left to their own devices, advising schools shouldn’t replicate exam diet but from my own experience we have been exam day after day with the papers reduced or halved and completed the following day. From looking on tiktok their have been students sitting in exam halls (I can send the video) replicating what looks to be an exam diet. Although schools had been left to do whatever they were giving no other choice considering the distribution the lockdown had brought. If someone is unhappy with their grade because they have missed a lot of content for example to Covid then they should be allowed to appeal that grade however the SQA have still not outlined what the appeals system will exactly have in it (who can appeal).”*

**Enclosure 008, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 18 June 2021 11:36  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansen@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Graeme/Malcolm

Ms Somerville has seen both notes below and [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks, happy to discuss.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 June 2021 09:45  
**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam)

<Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice dgej@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Ms Somerville

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Graeme.

**The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 007**

**Enclosure 009, FW: National Qualifications - 2022 approach options - June 2021**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 June 2021 15:01  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: National Qualifications - 2022 approach options - June 2021

Hello [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

[Redacted s.36(1)]

Hopefully helpful. As always, happy to discuss.

Best,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Children, Families & Education Division | Scottish Government Legal Directorate | Area 1-H (North) | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | Tel: (0131) 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] / 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**I currently work from home 5 days a week – please contact me by email, MS Teams or use the mobile number above. | Branch email address for SGLD School Education team: SGLDSE@gov.scot |**

**Have you read the new edition of [Right First Time – A practical guide for public authorities in Scotland to decision-making and the law?](#)**

**This correspondence is from the Scottish Government Legal Directorate. To the extent that it may contain legal advice, it is legally privileged and therefore may be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 June 2021 13:19  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** National Qualifications - 2022 approach options - June 2021

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please see attached an initial draft briefing note on the 2022 National Qualifications for any views/amends/additional inputs in advance of the meeting with Malcolm at 3pm.

Copying in [Redacted s38(1)(b)] and [Redacted s38(1)(b)], further to my earlier emails, to see context for any inputs they are able to provide on legal and public health advice.

I'll be logged off from 2.15 – 3.30pm, but happy to pick up any points before or after that.

Best regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

, Head of National Qualifications Team, Learning Directorate, Scottish Government, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

✉ email: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot 📞 mobile: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

🌐 url: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Enclosure 010, FW: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 24 June 2021 17:36

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Boyling E (Elisabeth) <Elisabeth.Boyling@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>

**Subject:** ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

As requested, please find attached a paper to support tomorrow's discussion.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 22 June 2021 16:19

**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Qualifications next year - 1330 Friday 25th

Thanks Graeme

Ms Somerville is keen to discuss what options are available to her around this – is there a short note that could be prepared in advance to help discussion? Even if it was something relatively unpolished.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.



**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Director of Learning  
**Sent:** 22 June 2021 16:17  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Qualifications next year - 1330 Friday 25th

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

This is good for Graeme

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 22 June 2021 16:07  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Qualifications next year - 1330 Friday 25th

Hi folks,

Cab Sec would like to have a discussing about Qualifications next year, ideally before end of the week. I have held **1330 on Friday** for this. I would be grateful if you could please let me know if this time is ok, and if anyone else should be added to the CC list.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | T: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot) | The Scottish Government  
| St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

## **Enclosure 010.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

From: Malcolm Pentland  
Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
24 June 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

### **ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an overview of possible options for assessment of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in the 2021-22 academic session, in advance of a meeting with officials on Friday 25 June.

#### **Timing**

2. **Urgent**; this paper is provided to support a meeting taking place at 1330 on Friday 25 June.

#### **Detail**

3. As such, it will be important to be clear in any messaging that any changes to the qualifications system that existed pre-Covid-19, for the 2022 qualifications, are based purely on ongoing effects of Covid-19, such as significant disruption to learning, and/or public health grounds. Any decisions on the 2021/22 academic session are not an indication of any future direction for the qualifications which will be considered separately after due consultation.

#### Stakeholder Views

4. Learners, teachers and the system are all keen to understand how qualifications will be assessed in 2022. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

5. The Chief Examiner wrote to you on 18 June, providing her strong advice that there should be an exam diet for the graded national courses (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher) in the 2021-22 academic session with minor modifications to the course requirements. The advice included retaining the 2020-21 ACM as a fall-back contingency option with pre-determined check points through the year informed by public health advice.

- [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

6. You responded to the Chief Examiner on 22 June, and announced in parliament on the same day, that you wanted to take more time to gather wider views, consider the issues and take account of the latest public health advice before confirming any plans in advance of the new school term in August.

## Options for 2021-22 National Qualifications

7. There are a range of possible options for the approach to graded national courses in 2021-22, although some carry significant risk:

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

## Public Health Advice

8. Key to making decisions on this issue will be any modelling around the state of the pandemic and access to public health advice in late July/early August.

9. Officials are continuing to work with key partners, including through the COVID-19 Education Recovery Group, to develop and issue updated guidance that will support schools to reopen safely after the summer holidays.

10. Guidance issued to local authorities last week, ahead of the end of term states that schools should retain the current mitigations until the end of term with the logistical starting point being the same mitigations after the summer holidays.

11. Mitigations will not be in place any longer than necessary. However, schools will need time to remove mitigations at the start of term if it is safe to do so, particularly the more logistically challenging ones (e.g. staggered start and stop times, groupings, etc).

12. A review is currently underway to consider how best to minimise disruption to children and young people's education, including, as you identified in your statement earlier this week, by identifying whether and to what extent the requirement for young people to self-isolate as contacts of positive cases can safely be reduced in future.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

## Legal Advice

[redacted s.36(1)]

## Equality and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[Out of scope]

## **Next Steps**

13. As Stage 4 (the submission of provisional results) of the ACM completes tomorrow (25 June), it is proposed that further engagement be carried out over the next two to three weeks to gather further views on options around assessment in 2021-22, particularly in relation to young people.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

14. Once these views are gathered, they can be considered alongside the latest public health advice at that point to inform a decision in advance of the return of schools in August.

### **Recommendation**

15. The Cabinet Secretary is invited to:

- Note potential options for approaching the assessment of graded national courses in the 2021-22 academic session;
- Agree to officials seeking seek advice from clinical advisors in early August to inform a final decision on the approach to assessment in 2021/22.
- Indicate whether she has any views on these options prior to officials taking forward any engagement with stakeholders.

Malcolm Pentland  
Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
24 June 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, Youth Employment and Training			x		
DG Education and Justice Director of Learning Director of Advanced Learning and Science Linda Pooley, Learning Directorate Malcolm Pentland, Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [redacted s38(1)(b)] Sam Anson, Learning Directorate Mick Wilson, Learning Directorate Andy Drought, Learning Directorate Liza McLean, Learning Directorate Alison Taylor, Learning Directorate [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Comms Education [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Colin McAllister, Special Adviser					

**Enclosure 011, FW: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 28 June 2021 15:01

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Akson@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Boyling E (Elisabeth) <Elisabeth.Boyling@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22: OPTIONS

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Copy: as above

**Meeting on Assessment of National Qualifications in 2021/22 – 25 June 2021**

Graeme Logan and I met with Ms Somerville on Friday afternoon to discuss the assessment of national qualifications in the 2021/22 academic year. You also attended. Please find below a draft note of the key points from the discussion. Grateful for confirmation that the Cabinet Secretary is content that this accurately reflects the areas covered in the meeting.

Key points discussed:

- [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]
- Update on key points from the **NQ21 Group's meeting** of earlier that day (25 June) and its reflections on the 2021 Alternative Certification Model and on the operation and effectiveness of the Group over the previous 9 months. It was noted that the NQ21 Group will be considering what revisions might be made to the 2021 ACM for the coming academic year should it be required as a contingency or an alternative and that further advice would be provided on this.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 010***

**Enclosure 012, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 30 June 2021 13:06

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Boyling E (Elisabeth) <Elisabeth.Boyling@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached a note in relation to the points raised in your previous email.

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 21 June 2021 13:33

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Boyling E (Elisabeth) <Elisabeth.Boyling@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021



Hi Malcolm

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 007***

## **Enclosure 012.1, Attachment: Learner Panel V2**

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
30 June 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

### **LEARNER VOICE THROUGH THE LEARNER PANEL**

#### **Purpose**

1 To provide an overview of the SQA's Learner Panel, how learner voice has been heard as part of the ACM process in 2020-2021, and how this can be improved in session 2021-2022

#### **Timing**

2 Routine

#### **Background**

3 Following recent discussions at the NQ21 Group on SQA proposals for the assessment of NQs next academic year [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

This note provides an update on the role and work of the SQA Learner Panel to date. Annex A includes SQA Learner Engagement paper. Annex B highlights key outcomes and outputs from Learner Panel meetings.

#### **Detail**

4 The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) established a Learner Panel in November 2020. This panel allows Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) who are learning in schools and colleges, or to give honest and open feedback to the SQA on policies and decisions that impact young people. The SYP has been commissioned to support the SQA to ensure the learner panel is co-designed with a focus on themes including education recovery, assessment, equality, and attainment. Membership is from a range of learner organisations including the Scottish Youth Parliament, Carers Trust Scotland, SPARQS (college learners) as well as from individual school and college learners.

5 This follows previous work SYP has done in partnership with the SQA. SYP delivered a series of focus groups asking young people what they thought of the proposed changes to the assessment model and the equality impact the alternative certification model will have on learners, which was published in August 2020.

[Out of scope]

Session 2021/2022

7 The most recent meeting of the Learner Panel Meeting was on Tuesday 29 June at 5pm. The focus of this panel was a review of the ACM '21 model followed by a focus on 2022. This meeting took the form of a workshop, with SYP staff facilitating the session encouraging participation. Officials should receive notes on this meeting shortly and these will be shared with Cabinet Secretary.

8 A member of SQA staff has recorded a video message about 2022 options and the future of assessment and this was sent to the Learner Panel on 17 June. Feedback is currently being received and analysed.

9 The next again panel will take place on Tuesday 27 July and thereafter on the last Tuesday of every month.

10 Other planned Learner engagement

- Virtual event for young people to ask questions about NQ21 ACM/Appeals, with Capital FM – w/c 28/06/2021
- Enquire – the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning live event 23/06/2021
- Who Cares? Scotland – meeting took place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June to answer their questions about the ACM and Appeals. Further meeting being scheduled to discuss future Learner engagement and Certification Day event. Who Cares? Scotland have been asked to nominate Learners they work with to join the Learner Panel.
- Planning of a Q&A session over the summer on SQA Facebook platform for learners to ask SQA and partner agencies any questions they may have about results and appeals

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
30 June 2021

**Annex A**



**Learner engagement update**

[Out of scope]

**Annex B**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 013, FW: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 01 July 2021 08:08  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Boyling E (Elisabeth) <Elisabeth.Boyling@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: National Qualifications - 2022 approach - update - 14 June 2021

Good Morning [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Ms Somerville has noted [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | T: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: [cabsecES@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecES@gov.scot) | The Scottish Government  
| St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 012***

**Enclosure 014, FW: Qualifications – Update**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 July 2021 17:03

**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Qualifications - Update

Hi Graeme/ [Redacted s38(1)(b)]/ [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please find below a short sit rep on key quals related issues.

**[Out of scope]**

**2022 - Revising the ACM for 2021/22.**

Key focus is establishing what refinements/revisions might be required to the ACM should it be required in the coming year. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

NQ21 Working Group continuing to meet to develop refinements/revisions to the 2020/21

ACM. [Redacted s38(1)(b)] attending next meeting (13 July)

[Out of scope] Aim is to develop proposal to take to the main NQ21 Group when it next meets on 23 July. [Redacted s38(1)(b)] can attend NQ21 meeting on 23 July and [Redacted s38(1)(b)] can attend on 30 July, supporting GL.

**[Out of scope]**

I hope this is helpful.

Thanks  
Malcolm

----Original Appointment-----

**[Out of scope]**

**Enclosure 015, FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 July 2021 09:00

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

PS

Good morning. I hope you are well?

I will prepare a reply for this letter for Cab Set. As we (Scotland) are not in the position to confirm assessment arrangements for session 2021-2022 in as detailed a manner as Mr Williamson has provided, I would suggest more of a "holding" reply in this instance to be followed by a more detailed reply when arrangements are confirmed.

Is Ms Somerville content with such an approach?

Many thanks, have a great day

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Pentland MK (Malcolm)

**Sent:** 13 July 2021 13:21

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]– Please see this from Cab Sec’s office. Thanks – [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 13 July 2021 12:56

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin)

<Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning

<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>

**Subject:** LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

Hi Malcolm

Please find enclosed a letter from Gavin Williamson regarding the above. Grateful if you could consider and provide advice/draft reply as appropriate.



Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**Enclosure 015.1, Attachment: FW: Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments**

**From:** UNDERSTUDY, SOS1 <SOS1.UNDERSTUDY@education.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 13 July 2021 12:35

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** PS, Sec-OF-STATE <Sec-OF-STATE.PS@education.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments

Dear Shirley-Anne,

Please find attached a letter from Secretary of State for Education, regarding 2021/22 qualifications and assessments in England.

Kind regards,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] to Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education



Department  
for Education

**Enclosure 015.1.1, Letter from Secretary of State**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 016, FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 16 July 2021 10:22

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning  
<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training  
<MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education &  
Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gorman G  
(Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS &  
ASSESSMENTS

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Response issued – copy attached.

Could I ask that all responses are, in future, put on to letter template with full address added.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 15 July 2021 07:27

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning  
<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training  
<MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education &  
Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gorman G  
(Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS &  
ASSESSMENTS

PS

Hope you are well this morning?

I would suggest the following as reply. As confirmed yesterday this is more of a holding reply reflecting our current position. I would intend a more fulsome reply to Mr Williamson once Scottish arrangements are confirmed:

*Dear Gavin Williamson,*

*Many thanks for your correspondence detailing qualification and assessment arrangements for session 2021/22 in England. I found it extremely helpful to see your latest thinking, including detail of subject level adaptations and the approach to formal assessments.*

*In Scotland, our approach for session 2021/22 continues to be developed.*

*With regards to course content, the Scottish Qualifications Agency issued subject specific guidelines in late June to teachers and lecturers. These confirmed the modifications to course content across subjects and levels.*

*In terms of formal assessment, the National Qualifications group, comprised of a range of educational stakeholders, are currently reviewing the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) used in session 2020-2021, with a view to identifying the best approach for the year ahead. Views are being sought from Parent/carer and learner groups to further inform our decisions.*

*It is my intention to confirm assessment arrangements for session 2021-2022 before centres re-open in mid-August. I will of course share details of these arrangements with you when confirmed.*

*I wish you lovely summer and look forward to continuing to work with you.*

Thank you, have a lovely day

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Director of Learning

**Sent:** 13 July 2021 12:58

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: LETTER FROM UKG SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION - QUALIFICATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

[Redacted s38(1)(b)],

In Malcolm's absence, please see attached.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Email: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Area: Currently working from home.

***This chain diverges from Enclosure 015 at the email of 13 July 2021 12:56***

**Enclosure 016.1, Attachment: Email FW: Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 16 July 2021 10:21  
**To:** UNDERSTUDY, SOS1 <SOS1.UNDERSTUDY@education.gov.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** PS, Sec-OF-STATE <Sec-OF-STATE.PS@education.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments

PS/Secretary of State

Please find attached a response from Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills to the Secretary of State's letter.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** UNDERSTUDY, SOS1 <SOS1.UNDERSTUDY@education.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 13 July 2021 12:35  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** PS, Sec-OF- STATE <Sec-OF-STATE.PS@education.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Update from Secretary of State on 2020/21 qualifications and assessments

Dear Shirley-Anne,

Please find attached a letter from Secretary of State for Education, regarding 2021/22 qualifications and assessments in England.

Kind regards,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] to Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education



**Enclosure 016.1.1, Attachment:PDF**

16 July 2021

Dear Gavin

[Out of Scope] In Scotland, our approach for session 2021/22 continues to be developed.

With regards to course content, the Scottish Qualifications Agency issued subject specific guidelines in late June to teachers and lecturers. These confirmed the modifications to course content across subjects and levels.

In terms of formal assessment, the National Qualifications group, comprised of a range of educational stakeholders, are currently reviewing the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) used in session 2020-2021, with a view to identifying the best approach for the year ahead. Views are being sought from Parent/carer and learner groups to further inform our decisions.

It is my intention to confirm assessment arrangements for session 2021-2022 before centres re-open in mid-August. I will of course share details of these arrangements with you when confirmed.

Yours sincerely



**Enclosure 017, FW: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 21 July 2021 18:28

**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7

Hi Graeme

By way of an update and in case you are attending the NQ21 Group on Friday morning, the 2022 situation was discussed at the w/g today and the attached paper considered, ahead of firm proposals going to the NQ21 Group.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] attended from our team; [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

I'll be attending the NQ 21 group on Friday morning but [Redacted s38(1)(b)] and I would be very happy to give you a bit more detail on the w/g discussion ahead of that if helpful.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

-----

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

*Please note: my working hours are Tuesday – Friday. I am currently working from home but am contactable via email or Microsoft Teams.*

**Enclosure 017.1, Attachment: Options Paper ACM 2022 for NQ WG 21**

**Paper for discussion on ACM 2022 for NQ Working Group 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.**

**Recap from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Working Group discussion**

A short recap on what was discussed and agreed last week: [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Working Group discussion**

It would be helpful to think around these models further. In the first place, it would be good to explore other advantages and disadvantages to these options, their workability; and in the second place, whether there are potential refinements to these options, and finally, exploring the group's preferences for an option.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 018, FW: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7**

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2021 09:25  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7

Thanks for this further feedback [Redacted s38(1)(b)] – very helpful to see. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)] Graeme.

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 July 2021 16:15  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7

Hi Graeme

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

We are currently considering how best any decision can be announced to be included with any advice once proposals and other stakeholder views are clearer.

Best regards  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 22 July 2021 13:38  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Readout of NQ w/g discussion on 2022 quals 21/7

Thanks for this update [Redacted s38(1)(b)] and [Redacted s38(1)(b)].

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

It might be helpful to update Cab Sec on this, along with a readout of the NQ21 group on Friday, to support her in reaching a final decision about our central planning assumption for 22 NQs, which I think we have given a commitment to setting out before schools return? [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Best wishes  
Graeme.

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 017***

**Enclosure 019, FW: Briefing - Mr Hepburn meeting with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) - 29 July 2021 at 4pm**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 12:04

**To:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Briefing - Mr Hepburn meeting with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) - 29 July 2021 at 4pm

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] || Learning Directorate || Scottish Government

**Enclosure 019.1, Attachment: Word Doc: Learning for Sustainability and STEM  
- Briefing**

**BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND FURTHER  
EDUCATION, YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

[Out of scope]

**MISALIGNMENT BETWEEN CFE AND SENIOR PHASE ASSESSMENT**

**We await with interest the outcomes of the OECD's comparative analysis of  
assessment and qualifications approaches, expected in the autumn.**

- The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills confirmed on 22 June that the OECD will publish this by the end of August.

**Enclosure 020, FW: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please**

**From:** Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 20:13  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; Tannahill C (Carol) <Carol.Tannahill@gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>; Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I don't have much to add to what has already been fed back to you from others.

From the clinical and public health perspective, and taking into account the uncertainties around the future course of Covid19, your proposals relating to exams look sensible and appropriate.

The Subgroup on Education and Children's Issues chaired by Carol Tannahill (on which I sit) considers the evidence from a rounded perspective and feeds into CERG. Its advice is approved by CMO and the Chair of the overarching C19 Advisory Group. Therefore as long as what you are proposing reflects and takes account of the Subgroup's advice – now and with flexibility to reflect any future advice in the practical arrangements for exams – this would have clinical support.

Kind regards  
Marion

**Professor Marion Bain**

**Interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
Scottish Government**

*Mob: 07*[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 19:38  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; Tannahill C (Carol) <Carol.Tannahill@gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>; Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Many thanks for the quick turnaround all and look forward to hearing from Marion in due course.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

Please note: my working hours are Tuesday – Friday. I am currently working from home but am contactable via email or Microsoft Teams.

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 18:34

**To:** Tannahill C (Carol) <Carol.Tannahill@gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>; Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

As has already been flagged, Marion is best placed to offer advice from a clinician perspective.

We are better placed to offer advice around surveillance, infection control and wider health and wellbeing impacts. We've provided advice that has informed the subgroup advice that Carol mentions. The model you are suggesting sounds sensible, from a psychological perspective the more clarity young people and staff have about plans and contingencies the better.

Best

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Carol.Tannahill@gov.scot [mailto:Carol.Tannahill@gov.scot]

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 18:21

**To:** Daniel Kleinberg <daniel.kleinberg@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>; Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Marion Bain <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMOHealth.Covid19 <DCMOHealth.Covid19@gov.scot>; CMO <CMO@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Thanks Daniel

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]: you may already be linked into Judith (copied), but if not, she'll be able to ensure you're sighted on the advice from the subgroup as it's finalised. It will cover the issues of self-isolation and contact tracing that Dave highlights below.

Carol

Prof Carol Tannahill | Chief Social Policy Adviser | Scottish Government

Mobile : 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

carol.tannahill@gov.scot

[Office of the Chief Social Policy Adviser | OCSPA](#)

**From:** Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 17:23  
**To:** Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Adding in Carol as Chair of the Subgroup on Education and Children's Issues.

**Daniel Kleinberg** | Deputy Director | Covid Public Health | The Scottish Government |  
<https://twitter.com/Dekay1974> pronouns: he/him



**We all have mental health, so it's okay to start talking about it.**

**From:** Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 27 July 2021 17:20  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)].

[Redacted s38(1)(b)], Marion is closest to this, and there are critical decisions related to self-isolation, contact tracing and the learning environment that will clearly impact your advice on qualifications occurring this week, towards some consensus via CERG on Thursday I believe. With that in mind, it may make sense to ensure that your advice follows shortly after or in parallel with that.

Notwithstanding these interdependencies, your approach below would make sense and I have no reason to offer any alternative approach from my perspective. We all appreciate the importance of supporting young people to progress through their educational development as a key priority moving forwards.

dave

**Dr Dave Caesar**

**Interim Deputy Chief Medical Officer**



## Scottish Government

Mob: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please note that I'm sending this at a time that works for me. I'm not expecting a reply at a time that doesn't work for you.

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 16:28

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Caesar DH (David) <David.Caesar@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; Kleinberg D (Daniel) <Daniel.Kleinberg@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Afternoon [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I think you'll want advice and views on this from one of the Deputy CMOs, so I have copied your message here to Marion Bain and Dave Caesar, who I think were dealing with education issues. I've also copied to the CMO's office for information.

Just for future awareness, my division doesn't have specific responsibility for COVID-19 advice. I appreciate the divisional title could be misleading in that respect.

Cheers

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | The Scottish Government

St Andrews House | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Tel: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 27 July 2021 16:23

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; eileen.scott1@phs.scot; Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Decision on national qualifications 2022 in context of covid recovery - advice please

Dear [Redacted s38(1)(b)], Eileen and Diane

I work on National Qualifications in Learning and was given your names by our CERG colleagues.

Like our CERG colleagues, we are preparing for the return to schools w/c 9 August and have been gathering views on the approach to national qualifications in schools and colleges next year. Cab Sec has publicly committed to establishing the approach prior to schools returning to ensure a clear direction.

We are keeping in close contact with our CERG colleagues so are aware of developing thinking on the general return to school. However, we wanted to ensure that we share our proposed direction in terms of delivering national qualifications with you and reflect any issues or concerns you have in our advice to Cab Sec.

The general approach which the National Qualifications 21 Group (group of stakeholders led by SQA) is recommending is [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Do you have any comments you would wish to feed in from a clinical perspective? Very happy to speak if that is easier. I'm on leave tomorrow but my colleagues [Redacted s38(1)(b)] and [Redacted s38(1)(b)] are around (copied into this email and fully up-to-speed) or am back online on Thursday. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Apologies for the relatively quick turnaround needed; do let us know if anything is not clear.

Many thanks for your help.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

*Please note: my working hours are Tuesday – Friday. I am currently working from home but am contactable via email or Microsoft Teams.*

## Enclosure 021, FW: CERG 62 - agenda and papers

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG

**Sent:** 29 July 2021 06:59

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: CERG 62 - agenda and papers

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG

**Sent:** 28 July 2021 18:43

**To:** CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Anita Hastie (PHS) <anita.hastie@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben McKendrick <Ben.M@syp.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Carrie Lindsay <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C\_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Eddie Follan <eddie@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Grace Vickers (SOLACE) <grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk>; Greg Dempster <greg@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jane Brumpton <Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Jane O'Donnell <jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk>; Jim Thewliss <jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk>; John Gallacher <j.gallacher@unison.co.uk>; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; Liam Fowley MSYP <liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk>; Margaret Wilson (NPFS) <chair@npfs.org.uk>; Matthew Sweeney (COSLA) <matthew@cosla.gov.uk>; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Pauline Stephen (GTCS) <pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Sheena Devlin <SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk>; Stephen McCabe <Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@phs.scot>; Jane O'Donnell <jane@cosla.gov.uk>; Humphreys J (Julie) (DCAF) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; Gill Stewart <Gill.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; O'Connor N (Niamh) <Niamh.O'Connor@gov.scot>; sbrown@EIS.org.uk; Sillars, Kay <K.Sillars@unison.co.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** CERG 62 - agenda and papers

[Out of scope]

Best wishes

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

CERG Secretariat

**TEAMS LINK:**

## Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+44 131 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] United Kingdom, Edinburgh

Phone Conference ID: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Enclosure 021.1, Attachment: Pdf Doc**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 021.2, Attachment: Pdf Doc**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 021.3, Attachment: Pdf Doc**

[Out of scope]

**Out of Scope**

## **7. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

The last two academic sessions have been challenging ones, for learners, parents, teachers and others across our education system, particularly in relation to the qualifications.

One key decision, in 2020-21 reflecting disruption to learning as a result of Covid-19, was that a normal diet of examinations could not go ahead. Decisions such as this have been led, and will continue to be led, by the science, informed by the views and concerns of stakeholders.

An Alternative Certification Model (ACM) was put in place for 2020-21, taking into account the disruption to learning and providing a flexible framework for schools and colleges to draw upon a range of assessment tools in arriving at provisional results for learners based on demonstrated attainment.

Taking into account recommendations from the National Qualifications experience 2020 rapid review, the ACM was arrived at through a collaborative approach. The National Qualifications 2021 Group, chaired by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), co-created the model and continue to monitor and oversee implementation. The Group draws its membership from the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, Colleges Scotland, Education Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland, School Leaders Scotland, the Scottish Council of Independent Schools, the Scottish Government, the National Parent Forum of Scotland, and the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Provisional results were shared with learners by their centres in advance of the 25 June deadline for submission to SQA. In line with the manifesto commitments for the first 100 days of the new government, SQA are progressing with formal certification of these results which will take place as previously scheduled on 10 August.

In recognition of the ongoing disruption through May and into June in some parts of Scotland, a contingency arrangement was put in place for learners who had completed their courses but for whom, due to particularly significant disruption the required evidence demonstrating their attainment could not be gathered within the flexibilities already provided. A later submission date for provisional results of 3 September was agreed for these candidates.

For learners unhappy with their results, the 2021 appeals process opened on 25 June allowing a direct right of appeal. From that date, learners were able to indicate an intention to appeal, with the formal appeals process commencing once results are published on 10 August. The closing date for priority appeals is Tuesday 24 August, and for non-priority appeals is Friday 27 August.



Ongoing support has been provided to learners throughout the summer from various agencies.

### **Next Steps**

- (1) Consultation with stakeholders, particularly with learners, parents and carers, is underway to inform decisions on the approach to the assessment of National Qualifications in 2022 in advance of the new academic session. SQA have already confirmed [modifications](#) for NQ subjects for 2021/2022;
- (2) Throughout the remainder of 2021 and into 2022, we will continue to monitor the approach to National Qualifications, taking action and implementing any contingencies if necessary to mitigate any further disruption for learners and the teaching/lecturer workforce whilst ensuring that fairness and credibility of the qualifications is maintained; and
- (3) We will work with partners to develop the future approach to assessment beyond 2022, informed by the OECD's report on comparative analysis of assessment and qualifications approaches expected at the end of August.

### ***Out of Scope***

**Enclosure 022, FW: BRIEFING REQUEST: First Minister's statement to Parliament - Preparations and Guidance for resumption of HE and FE - update requested by 0930 hours 3 August**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 02 August 2021 13:37

**To:** Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Quinn W (William) <William.Quinn@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; DL for COVID-19 Vaccinations Parliament and Briefing <DLforCOVID-19VaccinationsParliamentandBriefing@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; First Minister Covid Briefing Unit <FMcovidbriefingunit@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

**Subject:** BRIEFING REQUEST: First Minister's statement to Parliament - Preparations and Guidance for resumption of HE and FE - update requested by 0930 hours 3 August

**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

Out of scope]

Happy to discuss,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

---

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

***Out of Scope***

**ADDITIONAL 'SQA' PLACES IN HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION**  
**We are responding to the potential impact of the changes to the SQA process last year and this year on students looking to undertake further and higher courses in Scotland in the new academic year.**

- Through the Scottish Funding Council, we will continue to provide additional support to our institutions to ensure that students are able to take up places at university through the provision of additional places.
- For 2021-22 we will continue to fund the additional 1,297 places that were made available last year for students impacted by the SQA changes.
- We are also making provision for further additional places, currently estimated to be around 2,500 for new students, starting courses in the next academic year.

**[Out of scope]**

Both Government and the SFC will continue to work with colleges and universities to build a full understanding of the needs for 2021-22 and beyond.

***Out of Scope***

**Enclosure 023, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 04 August 2021 16:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)

<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansen@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)

<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald

R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)

<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

**Importance:** High

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Copy: as above

**ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

Please find attached an urgent submission on the approach to assessing National Qualifications in 2021/22. 12 pages in total.

Thanks

Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: [malcolm.pentland@gov.scot](mailto:malcolm.pentland@gov.scot) | [tel:+44\(0\)1312440047](tel:+44(0)1312440047)

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

## **Enclosure 023.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

From: Malcolm Pentland  
Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic Division  
04 August 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

### **ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide an update on a proposed approach for the assessment of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in the 2021-22 academic session, following further engagement with stakeholders.

#### **Timing**

2. **Urgent.** It was agreed that a decision on this matter would be announced prior to schools returning. More details on potential handling of an announcement is set out below.

#### **Background**

3. The Chief Examiner previously provided advice on the qualifications situation for 2021/22. In addition to this you asked officials to gather wider views, consider the issues and take account of the latest public health advice in order to inform a decision on plans the coming school year, which could be confirmed in advance of the new school term in August.

#### **Stakeholder Views**

4. Officials have engaged further with learners and parents and their representative organisations, and an overview of their views is outlined below. Due to timelines involved, engagement with learners and parents has run in parallel to the development of a proposed approach undertaken by SQA, working in collaboration with the National Qualifications 2021 (NQ21) Group. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

5.

#### Learners

6. We sought the views of learners through a number of channels. These included the SQA Learner Panel; SYP (including views from [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MSYP and views gathered during SYP learner engagement); Career Ready<sup>[1]</sup> students within Scottish Government and Education Scotland; the final meeting of the Youth Panel (Young Scot) and also a meeting of the Pupil Council at Denny High School.

---

[1] A programme available to S5 learners aimed at developing employability skills

7. As may be expected, there was no clear consensus of what assessment arrangements in session 2021-2022 should look like. However, key messages did emerge across and within groups of learners:

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

### Parents

8. The views of parents on the approach for 2022 have been gathered through an online session set up with NPFS regional representatives, attended by an SG official, along with feedback captured at an internal NPFS discussion, which NPFS have shared:

[out of scope]

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

### National Qualifications Group

9. Over the summer period, the NQ21 Group has been giving further detailed consideration to a potential approach to the qualifications for the coming academic session, including contingencies. The Group is clear that demonstrated attainment should continue to form the basis of any approach to the qualifications in 2021-22 to ensure both fairness and validity.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

17. We understand that the Chief Examiner will write the Cabinet Secretary shortly to provide an update from the National Qualifications Group on these proposals for session 2021/2022.

### **Public Health Advice**

18. Public health advice remains key to decision making in this area.

19. Officials have engaged with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (DCMO) who has indicated that, from a clinical and public health perspective, and taking into account the uncertainties around the future course of Covid19, the proposals relating to exams look sensible and appropriate.

20. The sub-group on Education and Children's Issues chaired by Carol Tannahill (on which the DCMO sits) considers evidence from a rounded perspective and feeds into CERG. Its advice is approved by the CMO office and the Chair of the overarching C19 Advisory Group. Officials will continue to ensure that proposals reflect and take account of the sub-group's advice – with flexibility to reflect any future advice in the practical arrangements for exams.

21. Officials will continue to monitor the position and any ongoing disruption to learning, although it is anticipated that [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

[Out of scope]

### **Legal Advice**

25. [redacted s.36(1)]

[Out of scope]

### **Equality and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments**

28. As was the case for 2020 and 2021, officials will need to carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment in relation to the Scottish Government's policy on the model for the award of national qualifications in 2021-22.

29. In addition, in exercising its functions, the SQA is also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and, as a public authority, it is subject to the same constraints as Ministers (mentioned in paragraph 25), as well as in compliance with the Convention rights. Subject to the outcome of the reference by the UK Government's Law Officers to the Supreme Court, the provisions of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill would apply to both Ministers and the SQA from the time it is commenced, which might conceivably be within school year 2021/22. The implications of that for Ministers would have to be assessed further once the outcome is known, and the SQA will wish to do the same.

[Out of scope]

### **Advice**

31. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

### **Handling strategy for announcement**

35. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

### **Recommendation and Conclusion**

40. You are invited to:

a) note the identified proposed option for approaching the assessment of graded national courses in the 2021-22 academic session, and indicate if you are content with this approach;

b) note the suggested handling strategy for making the announcement, and indicate if you are content; and

c) indicate whether you are content for the draft note at Annex A to be sent to FM.

[redacted s29(1)(b)]

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Minister for Higher Education, Further Education, Youth Employment and Training			x		
Permanent Secretary DG Education and Justice Director of Learning Director of Advanced Learning and Science Gayle Gorman Ollie Bray Sam Anson Mick Wilson Andy Drought Liza McLean Alison Taylor [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Roddy Macdonald Linda Pooley [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Denise McKay [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Comms Education [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Colin McAllister					



**Enclosure 024, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 05 August 2021 09:54

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansan@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

My submission of yesterday made reference to the preparation of a SCANCE note on the approach to qualifications in 2021/22 (subject to Ms Somerville being content) for Cabinet on Tuesday 10 August (paragraph 38).

However, due to it still being recess, we understand there will not be any written SCANCE items for next week's Cabinet meeting but that Cabinet members can raise any urgent items orally on the day. We are, therefore, planning to provide a draft speaking note for Ms Somerville that covers both the plans for 2021/22 and [Out of scope] We are in touch with Cabinet Secretariat colleagues on this.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: [malcolm.pentland@gov.scot](mailto:malcolm.pentland@gov.scot) | tel: +44(0) 131 244 0047

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**Rest of the chain is the same as Enclosure 022**

**Enclosure 025, FW: Media query - immediate - SQA op ed on exams – Herald**

[Out of scope]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@newsquest.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 06 August 2021 15:15  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Media query

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Good talking with you there.

This is to confirm my request for an indication on when we can expect the Education Secretary to make a statement to parliament about the 2022 exams. (We were told previously this would be made by the start of the new school year.)

[Out of scope]

Feel free to ring on 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

Many thanks  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

-----  
Advertising: All advertising is accepted subject to our terms and conditions of advertising which can be found here  
<http://www.newsquest.co.uk/terms-of-advertising>  
Editorial: All content submitted, or licenced, to Newsquest is accepted pursuant to our Contributor Terms and Conditions  
<http://www.newsquest.co.uk/contributor-terms>

This document is private and confidential.  
All property, copyright and other rights in it and its contents belong to Newsquest Media Group Limited.  
It must not be read, copied, disclosed or otherwise used without Newsquest's authorisation. Newsquest may exercise its legal rights and remedies in the event of any such unauthorised use.

[Newsquest Media Group Limited.](#)  
Registered in England, number 01676637. Registered office: Loudwater Mill, Station Road, Loudwater, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 9TY.

-----  
[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 026, FW: Letter from Fiona Robertson, SQA - Assessment Arrangements for National Courses in 2021/22**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 09 August 2021 13:02  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>;  
Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Fiona Robertson, SQA - Assessment Arrangements for National Courses in 2021/22

Hi all,

See attached letter from Fiona Robertson to Ms Somerville, for awareness. This has been sent to MiCase.

Many thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Assistant Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills  
T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk> **On Behalf Of** Fiona Robertson  
**Sent:** 06 August 2021 17:04  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Letter from Fiona Robertson, SQA - Assessment Arrangements for National Courses in 2021/22

PS/Cab Sec

Please find attached letter from Fiona Robertson, for the attention of Ms Somerville

Kind regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**e:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1FD

**Enclosure 026.1, Attachment: Letter from Fiona Robertson to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP**

Dear Cabinet Secretary

**ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATIONAL COURSES IN 2021/22**

In my letter of 18 June, I set out the assessment modifications to be put in place across the 150 National courses in the next academic session. These were published on 22 June and have been welcomed.

I also set out my advice, as Chief Examiner, on an exam diet in 2022 and undertook to consider further over the summer, with the National Qualifications Group, appropriate contingency arrangements taking into account a range of perspectives and reflections on the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) in 2021. Learning Directorate officials and Education Scotland have been closely involved in this work.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

With the support of the National Qualifications Group, I recommend a more targeted approach to a contingency plan for awarding qualifications in 2022, to respond to the two key scenarios – disruption to learning and public health conditions do not permit an examination diet. We have been working up a ‘gear change model’ (working title) which describes a set of arrangements enabling the system to respond to the different scenarios and which offers a stable, in as far as that is possible, pandemic- proof approach.

There are three parts to the plan to respond to different scenarios:

1. Course assessment (exams and coursework) with currently announced modifications – these will absorb a moderate amount of disruption to teaching and learning (broadly equivalent to a narrowing of about 20% of the content).
2. A further round of modifications to ease assessment – this would be invoked should there be disruption to teaching and learning beyond a moderate amount. If this was invoked, it would happen at end of March to ensure reasonable course coverage for learners.
3. Teacher judgement based on normal in-year assessment – this would be invoked only in the event that examinations could not be held because of public health restrictions in place (or likely to be in place) for May.

This set of contingencies gives sufficient flexibility to respond to the different scenarios that we might encounter. There will need to be a more exact formulation of the trigger point or threshold for the second ‘gear’ to be invoked; but the third ‘gear’ should be reserved only for the situation of public examinations not being able to go ahead, rather than for more general disruption to teaching and learning.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

I think this set of contingencies offers a stable, coherent outlook for the year ahead for teachers and learners, in being able to focus on normal practices in teaching, learning and assessment, working in the knowledge that there is enough flexibility to respond to any changing situation.

Should you support 'the gear change model', I am keen that communications to schools and colleges can be clear and reassuring on both the high bar for the 3rd stage to be invoked, as well as its reliance only on the kinds of assessment evidence normally generated, so that teachers and learners do not feel obliged or compelled to effectively operate a 'dual assessment model' throughout the year.

I would be happy to discuss further, to support your consideration and in advance of any further announcements next week.

**Enclosure 027, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day core narrative - meeting at 4pm**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 09 August 2021 15:30

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; 'shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot' <shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** National Qualifications - Results Day core narrative - meeting at 4pm

**Importance:** High

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached an updated narrative on Results Day which we have been updating on the back of further intel during the day.

We have another meeting with Cabinet Secretary at 4pm and can obviously go through this with her then.

Many thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

*Please note: my working hours are Tuesday – Friday. I am currently working from home but am contactable via email or Microsoft Teams.*

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 05 August 2021 11:45

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills; 'shirley-anne.somerville.msp@parliament.scot'; McAllister C (Colin); Director of Learning; Pentland MK (Malcolm); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Bray O (Ollie); Hamilton G (Gillian); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Wilson M (Mick); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Director of Advanced Learning and Science; Macdonald R (Roddy); DG Education & Justice; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Griffin J (Joe)

**Subject:** Results day briefing

**When:** 09 August 2021 16:00-16:45 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

**Where:** MS Teams

***Out of Scope***

**When will an announcement be made on next year's qualifications? Will exams go ahead next year?**

- An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.
- As always, the safety, wellbeing and education of our young people will be the top priority.

***Out of Scope***





***Out of scope***

**When will an announcement be made on next year's qualifications? Will exams go ahead next year?**

- An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.
- As always, the safety, wellbeing and education of our young people will be the top priority.

***Out of scope***

***Out of scope***

**When will an announcement be made on next year's qualifications? Will exams go ahead next year?**

- An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.
- As always, the safety, wellbeing and education of our young people will be the top priority.

***Out of scope***

**Enclosure 029, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 08:59

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please find attached:

revised core narrative,

[Out of scope]

Thanks  
Malcolm

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 09 August 2021 22:56

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material

Hi Malcolm

[Out of scope]

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**Enclosure 029.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

Out of scope

**RESULTS DAY NARRATIVE**

Out of scope

**2022 Qualifications and Future of Assessment**

**When will an announcement be made on next year's qualifications? Will exams go ahead next year?**

- An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.
- As always, the safety, wellbeing and education of our young people will be the top priority.

Out of scope

**Enclosure 030, FW: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 09:38

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: National Qualifications - Results Day - Additional material

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

We discussed, please see very slightly updated docs... [out of scope]

Thanks  
Malcolm

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 029***

**RESULTS DAY NARRATIVE**

Out of scope

**2022 Qualifications and Future of Assessment**

**When will an announcement be made on next year's qualifications? Will exams go ahead next year?**

- An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.
- As always, the safety, wellbeing and education of our young people will be the top priority.

Out of scope



**Enclosure 030.2, Attachment: Word Doc**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 031, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 10 August 2021 16:46  
**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS  
**Importance:** High

PS/First Minister

Please find attached a note from Ms Somerville to the First Minister regarding the above. [out of scope]

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**Enclosure 031.1, Attachment: Cab Sec ES to First Minister – School Exams  
2021-2022**

[Redacted s29(1)(b)]

**Enclosure 032, FW: Submission - Education Recovery Strategy - Near final version for comment**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 17:46

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Director for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Akson@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Tracey J (Judith) <Judith.Tracey@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Sheppard L (Lesley) <Lesley.Sheppard@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Colvin I (Iona) <Iona.Colvin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Submission - Education Recovery Strategy - Near final version for comment

[Out of scope]Best wishes

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government | I am working remotely Monday-Friday and can be contacted via email, MS Teams or on 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Enclosure 032.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

From: Carolyn Younie/Amy Harron  
Learning Directorate  
Tuesday 10 August

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Education Recovery Strategy: Near final version for comment**

[Out of scope]

5. Members of the Education Recovery Strategy Sub-Group previously agreed that the document should consist of the following short chapters:

- Overview
- ELC
- Health and Wellbeing
- Supporting Learning and Attainment
- Ensuring Equity
- Additional Support Needs
- National Qualifications
- Supporting Positive Destinations for Children and Young People
- Higher and Further Education
- Supporting the Workforce
- Summary and Next Steps

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

10 August 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery			X		
Minister for Children and Young People			X		
Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment & Training			X		
Permanent Secretary DG Education and Justice Director of Learning Alison Cumming Gayle Gorman Director of Advanced Learning and Science Director for Children and Families Mick Wilson Andrew Drought Malcolm Pentland Liza McLean Alison Taylor Linda Pooley [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] SGLD Clare Hicks Craig Clement Gillian Hamilton Colin McAllister David Livey Comms Education & Skills [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)]					

# Education Recovery Strategy

## - Building a collaborative and pandemic-proof system to support excellence and equity

Out of scope

### 7. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The last two academic sessions have been challenging ones, for learners, parents, teachers and others across our education system, particularly in relation to qualifications.

One key decision in 2020-21, reflecting disruption to learning as a result of COVID-19, was that a normal diet of examinations could not go ahead. Decisions such as this have been led, and will continue to be led, by the science, informed by the views and concerns of stakeholders.

An Alternative Certification Model (ACM) was put in place for 2020-21, taking into account the disruption to learning and providing a flexible framework for schools and colleges to draw upon a range of assessment tools in arriving at provisional results for learners based on demonstrated attainment.

Taking into account recommendations from the National Qualifications experience 2020 rapid review, the ACM was arrived at through a collaborative approach. The National Qualifications 2021 Group, chaired by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), co-created the model and continue to monitor and oversee implementation. The Group draws its membership from the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, Colleges Scotland, Education Scotland, the Educational Institute of Scotland, School Leaders Scotland, the Scottish Council of Independent Schools, the Scottish Government, the National Parent Forum of Scotland, and the Scottish Youth Parliament.

Provisional results were shared with learners by their centres in advance of the 25 June deadline for submission to SQA. In line with the manifesto commitments for the first 100 days of the new government, SQA progressed with formal certification of these results taking place as scheduled on 10 August.

In recognition of the ongoing disruption through May and into June in some parts of Scotland, a contingency arrangement was put in place for learners who had

completed their courses but for whom, due to particularly significant disruption, the required evidence demonstrating their attainment could not be gathered within the flexibilities already provided. A later submission date for provisional results of 3 September was agreed for these candidates.

For learners unhappy with their results, the 2021 appeals process opened on 25 June allowing a direct right of appeal. From that date, learners were able to indicate an intention to appeal, with the formal appeals process commencing once results are published on 10 August. The closing date for priority appeals is Tuesday 24 August, and for non-priority appeals is Friday 27 August.

Ongoing support has been provided to learners throughout the summer from various agencies

Work has been undertaken by the NQ21 Group over the summer to develop plans for the 2021/2022 academic session. Consultation with stakeholders, particularly learners and parents, has also informed decisions on the approach to the assessment of National Qualifications in 2022 which were announced on 11 August.

The central planning assumption will be for examinations to proceed in 2022 for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, with [modifications for NQ subjects confirmed by SQA prior to the summer break](#).

In the event that additional disruption is experienced, additional adaptations to the exams will be considered. These may include adaptations to the content of the papers, such as the removal of certain content, or an indication to learners of the topics to be covered, through to the physical arrangements for sitting the papers, such as the use of multiple classrooms rather than assembly or gym halls, if public health advice advises certain approaches to large gatherings.

A further contingency arrangement will be in place for the possibility of more significant disruption, and with it public health advice advising against large gatherings of people, which would lead to the cancellation of exams – such as we have seen in the past two academic sessions. In this case, we will look to draw on planned assessments gathered at appropriate times throughout the year. Guidance on this arrangement will be provided at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the volume and gathering of evidence is robust, reliable and proportionate.

### **Next Steps**

(1) Throughout the remainder of 2021 and into 2022, we will continue to monitor the approach to National Qualifications, taking action and implementing any contingencies if necessary to mitigate any further disruption for learners and the teaching/lecturer workforce whilst ensuring that fairness and credibility of the qualifications is maintained; and



(2) We will work with partners to develop the future approach to assessment beyond 2022, informed by the OECD's report on comparative analysis of assessment and qualifications approaches expected at the end of August.

Out of scope

## **Enclosure 033, FW: Briefing Note 2022 Assessment Arrangements**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 18:42

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Briefing Note 2022 Assessment Arrangements

**PS/ Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

Please find attached a briefing note ahead of the release of the 2022 Assessment Arrangements update on Wednesday 11 August via GIQ.

[Out of scope]

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

## **ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATIONAL COURSES IN 2021/22**

### Background

Advice from officials on 4 August provided an update on a proposed approach for the assessment of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in the 2021-22 academic year that has been developed by the SQA in collaboration with the National Qualifications Group. On 6 August, the Chief Examining Officer wrote to you also outlining the proposed approach (detail on approach provided below).

On 10 August you indicated that you were content with assessment proposals and for a headline announcement to be made on 11 August, with a GIQ being answered and a news release issuing.

### [Out of scope]

The NQ Group will then issue its own communication providing more detail on the contingencies - in the shape of further modifications/adaptations should the level of disruption increase, and, in a scenario where the diet had to be cancelled, the use of in-year assessment evidence (demonstrated attainment) to support teacher judged grades. A draft of the NQ Group communication (which would be issued by SQA) is attached at Annex B.

### Detail

#### **Development of arrangements**

- Over the summer period, the NQ21 Group has been giving further detailed consideration to a potential approach to the qualifications for the coming academic session, including contingencies.
- Creation of the assessment approach has been informed by experiences in session 2020/2021.
- The Group is clear that demonstrated attainment should continue to form the basis of any approach to the qualifications in 2021-22 to ensure both fairness and validity.
- Assessment modifications across National courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA.

#### **Detail of modifications**

- Subject level modifications to assessment equate to reducing the expected course content by around 20% compared to a normal year. This reduction in course content, coupled with a reduction in assessment burden in almost all subject areas, should allow for a greater focus on learning and teaching.
- These existing modifications have been designed to create more flexibility to absorb some of the impact of disrupted learning, free up teachers and learners from some of the demands of the course, whilst having relatively minimal impacts upon validity and reliability.

- NQ21 has identified a preferred “gear change model” [formal name still to be confirmed] to include mitigations to offset any further disruption to learning whether through self-isolation or future lockdowns, and any public health conditions impacting on delivery of an exam diet.
- This model includes a set of contingencies, with a clear understanding of when we would shift to a different plan, and under what conditions, is still to be developed at pace by the National Qualifications Group, which has met frequently over the summer to consider options for the coming session. It will issue detailed guidance at the earliest opportunity.
- The intent would be to have three stages or gears to the contingency as follows:
  - (a) operate an exam diet with already announced modifications, and,
  - (b) if some degree of additional disruption is experienced, to insulate examinations against further disruption with further adaptation/modification to increase accessibility, decrease stress on learners etc – e.g. Advance Notice of Topic Areas for revision purposes, more use of Open Book etc.
  - (c) in the event that examinations become impossible because of public health restrictions / lockdown, then in-year assessment evidence will be used to support teacher judged grades.

ny approach for the 2022 qualifications, will be based purely on ongoing effects of Covid-19, such as significant disruption to learning, and/or public health grounds.

[Out of scope]

## Q&A

### **Who have you consulted?**

- Over the summer period, the NQ21 Group has been giving further detailed consideration to a potential approach to the qualifications for the coming academic session, including contingencies.
- I've listened closely to what young people and their parents have been saying and my officials have engaged further with learners and parents and their representative organisations
- Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) and National Parents Forum for Scotland (NPFS) are both represented on the NQ21 Group
- We sought the views of learners through a number of channels. These included the SQA Learner Panel; SYP; Career Ready<sup>[1]</sup> students within Scottish Government and Education Scotland; the final meeting of the Youth Panel (Young Scot) and also a meeting of the Pupil Council.
- The views of parents on the approach for 2022 have been gathered through an online session set up with NPFS regional representatives, attended by an SG official, along with feedback captured at an internal NPFS discussion, which NPFS have shared:

### **Why go back to exams? OECD reform – why go back?**

- Any approach for the 2022 qualifications, will be based purely on ongoing effects of Covid-19, such as significant disruption to learning, and/or public health grounds.

[Out of scope]

### **How to avoid over-assessment / stress / workload**

- Subject level modifications to assessment equate to reducing the expected course content by around 20% compared to a normal year.
- This reduction in course content, coupled with a reduction in assessment burden in almost all subject areas, should allow for a greater focus on learning and teaching.
- From the start of the course and throughout session 2021-22, teachers and lecturers should gather examples of learners' work and keep a record of any normal, planned assessments that take place. This will provide a reliable collection of evidence that can be used to determine learners' grades if the exams are cancelled.
- To avoid increased assessment and additional workload, it is important that the evidence gathered is based only on planned work that learners will already be doing throughout the course. There is no need to carry out additional assessments. We will provide all schools, colleges and training providers with more detailed information and guidance on our contingency arrangements for the 2022 exams.

### **When would mitigations come into effect?**

- Public health advice remains key to decision making in this area.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> A programme available to S5 learners aimed at developing employability skills

- The National Qualifications Group will be setting out more detail on the a set of contingencies very soon.
- We will continue to monitor the position and any ongoing disruption to learning, although it is anticipated that the approach developed provides the flexibility to adapt to any significant levels of disruption.

**[Out of scope]**

## Annex B

- **National Qualifications in session 2021-22**

### **Response from the National Qualifications Group**

Today, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has confirmed plans to hold exams for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2021-22. Addressing the Scottish Parliament, the Cabinet Secretary said, **[insert statement]**. The **National Qualifications Group\*** will continue to support the delivery of National Qualifications in session 2021-22.

### **Planning for further disruption**

While we are planning for exams to take place in 2022, it is important that we also plan for any additional disruption that may happen during session 2021-22. We are preparing robust contingency arrangements to respond to all scenarios and avoid a sudden change of plan if the public health situation changes. This includes looking at what further support measures could be put in place to ensure, as much as possible, that the 2022 exams can still go ahead.

However, if there is significant disruption, where public health advice no longer permits large gatherings of people, it is possible that this could lead to the 2022 exams being cancelled. If this happens, we will ask teachers and lecturers to use their professional judgement to determine learners' grades, based on work that learners have already completed throughout the course.

To prepare for this scenario, from the start of the course and throughout session 2021-22, teachers and lecturers should gather examples of learners' work and keep a record of any normal, planned assessments that take place. This will provide a reliable collection of evidence that can be used to determine learners' grades if the exams are cancelled.

To avoid increased assessment and additional workload, it is important that the evidence gathered is based only on planned work that learners will already be doing throughout the course. There is no need to carry out additional assessments. We will provide all schools, colleges and training providers with more detailed information and guidance on our contingency arrangements for the 2022 exams.

### **Modified course assessments 2021-22**

SQA has modified the course assessment requirements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course, to reduce the volume of assessment and to ease teacher, lecturer and learner workload as much as possible, while still maintaining the credibility of the qualifications. This will allow for any lost learning caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and will support learners as they progress to the next stage of their qualifications.

For most courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for session 2020-21. For some courses, SQA has adjusted the modifications to give learners more opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, in response to feedback from teachers and lecturers and the easing of public health restrictions.

In June, SQA published a brief overview of the modifications for each subject, which you can view by visiting [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects), selecting a subject, and clicking on the 'course information 2021-22' tab.

**From Monday 16 August**, SQA will publish 'modification summary documents' that provide more detail on these modifications and explain the assessment requirements for this year. This will help teachers and lecturers to prepare their learners for assessment.

We look forward to working with and supporting the whole education system to deliver National Qualifications for Scotland's learners.

### **The National Qualifications Group**

\*The **National Qualifications Group** consists of representatives of the following organisations:

- Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)
- Colleges Scotland
- Education Scotland
- Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS)
- National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS)
- School Leaders Scotland (SLS)
- Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS)
- Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP)

-ENDS-



**Enclosure 034, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 10 August 2021 19:47  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Akson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Parly Clerk  
Comms

[Out of scope]  
Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 10 August 2021 15:59  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent

Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]/Malcolm

Ms Somerville has seen your note and is content with the proposed approach and the GIQ. (Parly Clerk to note)

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 024***

**Enclosure 035, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 11 August 2021 12:32

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[redacted s. 29(1)(b)]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 19:47

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[redacted s. 29(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 19:22

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[redacted s.29(1)(b)]

Best wishes

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | T: 0131 24 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 10 August 2021 16:46

**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

**Importance:** High

PS/First Minister

[redacted s.29(1)(b)]

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**Enclosure 036, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM  
CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 August 2021 12:39

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION  
& SKILLS

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 035***

**Enclosure 037, FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 August 2021 12:51

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Malcolm (and Mick)

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Happy to discuss. Thanks, Graeme.

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 035***

**Enclosure 038, FW: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 13:35  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)] /Malcolm

To see response from First Minister to the note from Cab Sec's note yesterday and to note that this will now be discussed at Cabinet on Tuesday. I would be grateful if you could liaise with Cabinet Secretariat about their timing/format requirements for paper (bearing in mind Ms Somerville's will require to sign off the paper prior to being submitted).

Happy to discuss practicalities around this.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 023***



**Enclosure 038.1, Attachment: FW: SCHOOL EXAMINATION DIET 2022 : NOTE FROM CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**

*The same as Enclosure 035*

**Enclosure 039, FW: NQs 2022**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 16:16  
**To:** Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: NQs 2022

Mick

Just off a call with Fiona. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

M

**From:** Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 16:00  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: NQs 2022

[Out of scope]M

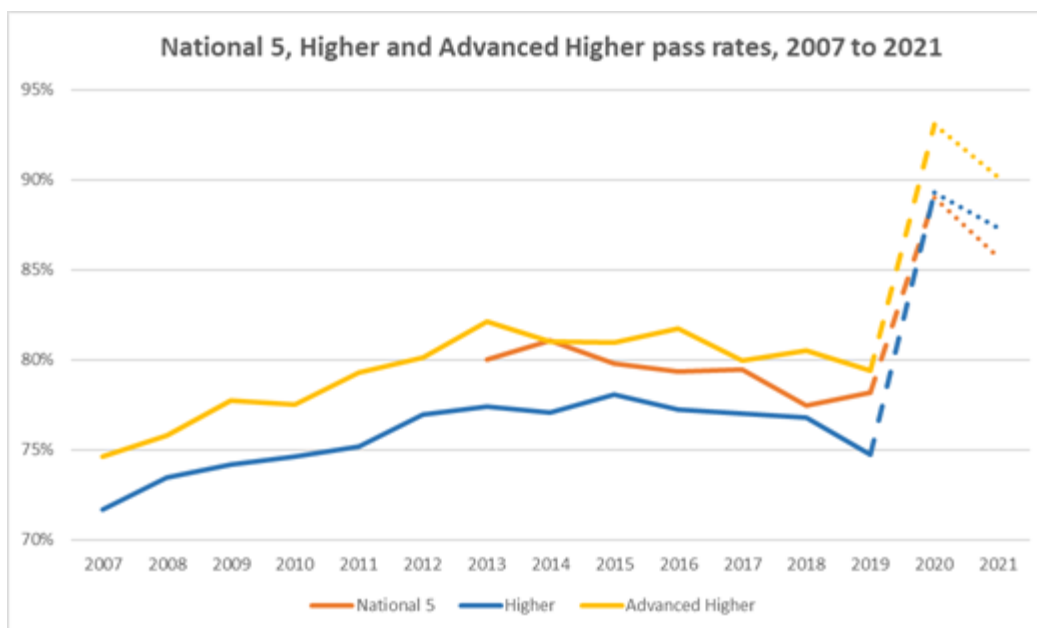
Mick Wilson  
Deputy Director, Education Analysis  
I am currently working from home - Tel: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 15:59  
**To:** Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: NQs 2022

Thanks Mick. Malcolm/ colleagues – I think we should include this graph in the Cabinet paper. Graeme.

**From:** Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 12:47  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: NQs 2022

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]



Mick Wilson  
 Deputy Director, Education Analysis  
 I am currently working from home - Tel: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Wilson M (Mick)  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 09:32  
**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: NQs 2022

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Mick Wilson  
 Deputy Director, Education Analysis  
 I am currently working from home - Tel: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 09:28  
**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** NQs 2022

Colleagues

I've spoken to [Redacted s38(1)(b)] re the FM's feedback to pause the planned GIQ today. He will feed back any further information as soon as he gets it from the FM's office.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

I think we should be proactive in offering Cab Sec some further advice/ key lines on the above.

Thanks  
Graeme.

## **Enclosure 040, FW: CERG 63 - agenda and papers**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** CERG

**Sent:** 11 August 2021 19:34

**To:** CERG <CERG@gov.scot>; Anita Hastie (PHS) <anita.hastie@phs.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Bain MB (Marion) <Marion.Bain@gov.scot>; Ben McKendrick <Ben.M@syp.org.uk>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Carrie Lindsay <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; COVID-19 Education & Children's Sub-Group Secretariat <C19E&C\_Secretariat@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Diane Stockton (PHS) <Diane.Stockton2@phs.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Eddie Follan <eddie@cosla.gov.uk>; OCEX Hub <EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Grace Vickers (SOLACE) <grace.vickers@midlothian.gov.uk>; Greg Dempster <greg@ahds.org.uk>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (DCAF) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; Jane Brumpton <Jane.Brumpton@earlyyearsscotland.org>; Jane O'Donnell <jane.o'donnell@cosla.gov.uk>; Jim Thewliss <jim.thewliss@sls-scotland.org.uk>; John Gallacher <j.gallacher@unison.co.uk>; Larry Flanagan <lflanagan@eis.org.uk>; Liam Fowley MSYP <liam.fowley.msyp@sypmail.org.uk>; Margaret Wilson (NPFS) <chair@npfs.org.uk>; Matthew Sweeney (COSLA) <matthew@cosla.gov.uk>; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Pauline Stephen (GTCS) <pauline.stephen@gtcs.org.uk>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Sheena Devlin <SDevlin@pkc.gov.uk>; Stephen McCabe <Stephen.McCabe@inverclyde.gov.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Sillars, Kay <K.Sillars@unison.co.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Jane O'Donnell <jane@cosla.gov.uk>; Jamie Dunlop <jamie.d@syp.org.uk>; Duncan McCormick <Duncan.McCormick@phs.scot>

**Subject:** CERG 63 - agenda and papers

Dear all

Please see attached agenda and papers for tomorrow's meeting.

Please note that we will supply the publishable MI report and accompanying infographic tomorrow (after CERG meeting).

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

CERG Secretariat

cerg@gov.scot

## Microsoft Teams meeting

Out of scope

**Enclosure 040.1, Attachment: Word doc**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 040.2, Attachment: Word doc**

[Out of scope]

**Enclosure 040.3, Attachment: Word doc**

**CERG - weekly feedback**

Out of scope

**GTCS**

Queries and concerns from teacher and lecturers about transition arrangements from the start of session to whatever the new plans will be in relation particularly to the support and expectations around about exams. There is an acceptance (and expectation) that something different will happen but a need for information in relation to likely speed of any change and what that means for the provision of education now.

We recognise these understandable concerns. An announcement on plans for 2022 will be made soon.

Out of scope



# EDUCATION RECOVERY STRATEGY

Out of scope

## 7. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Out of Scope

Work has been undertaken by the NQ21 Group over the summer to develop plans for the 2021/2022 academic session. Consultation with stakeholders, particularly learners and parents, has also informed decisions on the approach to the assessment of National Qualifications in 2022 which were announced on 11 August.

The central planning assumption will be for examinations to proceed in 2022 for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, with [modifications for NQ subjects confirmed by SQA prior to the summer break](#).

In the event that additional disruption is experienced, additional adaptations to the exams will be considered. These may include adaptations to the content of the papers, such as the removal of certain content, or an indication to learners of the topics to be covered, through to the physical arrangements for sitting the papers, such as the use of multiple classrooms rather than assembly or gym halls, if public health advice advises certain approaches to large gatherings.

A further contingency arrangement will be in place for the possibility of more significant disruption, and with it public health advice advising against large gatherings of people, which would lead to the cancellation of exams – such as we have seen in the past two academic sessions. In this case, we will look to draw on planned assessments gathered at appropriate times throughout the year. Guidance on this arrangement will be provided at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the volume and gathering of evidence is robust, reliable and proportionate.

### Next Steps

(1) Throughout the remainder of 2021 and into 2022, we will continue to monitor the approach to National Qualifications, taking action and implementing any contingencies if necessary to mitigate any further disruption for learners and the teaching/lecturer workforce whilst ensuring that fairness and credibility of the qualifications is maintained; and

(2) We will work with partners to develop the future approach to assessment beyond 2022, informed by the OECD's report on comparative analysis of assessment and qualifications approaches expected at the end of August.

Out of scope

**Enclosure 040.5, Attachment: PDF doc**

[Out of Scope]

**Enclosure 041, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 13 August 2021 17:13  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Aanson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please find attached for Ms Somerville's consideration a draft Cabinet Paper on the approach to qualifications for the coming academic session.

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director  
Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ  
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 13:35  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of

Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; ParlyClerk Scotland <ParlyClerkScotland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]/Malcolm

To see response from First Minister to the note from Cab Sec's note yesterday and to note that this will now be discussed at Cabinet on Tuesday. I would be grateful if you could liaise with Cabinet Secretariat about their timing/format requirements for paper (bearing in mind Ms Somerville's will require to sign off the paper prior to being submitted).

Happy to discuss practicalities around this.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 06 August 2021 18:00

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>;

Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>;  
EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>;  
Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A  
(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)  
<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;  
Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)  
<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,

[Out of scope]

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 04 August 2021 16:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent  
Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of  
Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)  
<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie)  
<Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)  
<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)  
<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald  
R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)  
<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Urgent: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

**Importance:** High

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Copy: as above

**ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

Please find attached an urgent submission on the approach to assessing National Qualifications in 2021/22. 12 pages in total.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director  
Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131  
244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ  
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**Enclosure 041.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 042, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 13 August 2021 17:59

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

As per below, please find attached a short note to Ms Somerville.

Thanks  
Malcolm

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 041***



**Enclosure 042.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

From: Malcolm Pentland  
DD Curriculum, Qualifications & Gaelic

13 August 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN 2022 – POSSIBLE OPTIONS  
BEING EXPLORED BY SQA**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Malcolm Pentland  
13 August 2021

**Enclosure 043, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 13 August 2021 20:50

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)

<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie)

<Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Akson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)

<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald

R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)

<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David)

<David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Apologies, have picked up and amended a drafting point in the penultimate paragraph (39) of the paper.

Thanks

Malcolm

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 041***

**Enclosure 043.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]



**Enclosure 044.1, Attachment: SAS\_edit\_QUALIFICATIONS 2022 Cabinet Paper**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 045, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 August 2021 11:07

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)

<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie)

<Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)

<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald

R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)

<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David)

<David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

Stuart

Thanks for this and for being in touch. As requested, will get back to you with a revised version by late afternoon today.

Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 14 August 2021 09:43

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)

<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

Malcolm

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]  
Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 041***

**Enclosure 046, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 14 August 2021 16:34

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Akson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please find attached a revised paper, taking account of Ms Somerville's comments. I have included a copy with her comments and track changes and a clean version.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm)

**Sent:** 14 August 2021 11:07

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science



<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)  
<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie)  
<Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)  
<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)  
<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald  
R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)  
<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills  
<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David)  
<David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS  
2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Thanks for this and for being in touch. As requested, will get back to you with a revised version by late afternoon today.

Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director  
Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | tel:+44(0) 131  
244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ  
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 044***

**Enclosure 046.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 046.2, Attachment: Word Doc**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 047, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 15 August 2021 10:48  
**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22  
**Importance:** High

PS/First Minister  
PS/Deputy First Minister

Please find attached a draft Cabinet paper on Assessment of National Qualification 2021/22 for discussion at Cabinet on Tuesday as requested by the First Minister.

Apologies for the delay in getting this to you but grateful for confirmation on Monday that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister are content for this paper to be discussed at Tuesday's Cabinet.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot  
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**Enclosure 047.1, Attachment: Word Doc: Qualifications 2022 Cabinet Paper**

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 048.1, Attachment: Word Doc: Qualifications 2022 Cabinet Paper**

[Redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 049.1, Attachment: Word Doc Qualifications 2022 Cabinet Paper –  
17 Aug**

[Redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

***Enclosure 050, FW: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills - Meeting with Eileen Prior Executive Director Connect - 18th August 2021***

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 15:08

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills - Meeting with Eileen Prior Executive Director Connect - 18th August 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

With apologies for the delay, please see attached briefing for Ms Somerville's meeting with Eileen Prior, Executive Director of Connect on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Many thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Curriculum Unit | Directorate for Learning | Scottish Government |

**Please note for the foreseeable future Scottish Government staff are working from home. I am contactable by email – [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot**

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 15:08

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anson@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills - Meeting with Eileen Prior Executive Director Connect - 18th August 2021

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills



With apologies for the delay, please see attached briefing for Ms Somerville's meeting with Eileen Prior, Executive Director of Connect on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Many thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Curriculum Unit | Directorate for Learning | Scottish Government |

**Please note for the foreseeable future Scottish Government staff are working from home. I am contactable by email – [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot**

Out of scope

## **2022 QUALIFICATIONS AND FUTURE OF ASSESSMENT**

**We will advise our central planning assumption for awarding qualifications in 2022 as soon as possible, taking account of the latest state of the pandemic.**

- We know that learners, teachers and lecturers are keen to understand how qualifications will be awarded in 2022.
- Work has been undertaken by the National Qualifications Group over the summer to develop plans for the 2021/22 academic session, and consultation has also been carried out with learners and parents.
- We are giving this careful consideration taking on board, reflecting on, and learning from, the on-going experience of this year, and informed by public health advice.

**Any decision on the 2022 approach is not an indication of any future direction for the qualifications which will be considered separately after due consultation.**

- Any revised or new system of qualifications, will need to be informed by the outcomes from the OECD comparative research on assessment and qualifications that is due to publish at the end of this month, along with full stakeholder engagement.
- Whilst alternative approaches were adopted in 2020 and 2021, these were temporary, emergency measures in response to the pandemic.
- Any major reform of the qualifications system will likely take at least three years to develop and fully implement.

Out of scope

**Enclosure 051, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Sturgeon N (Nicola) <Nicola.Sturgeon@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 16 August 2021 17:28  
**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> on behalf of: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Date:** Sunday, 15 Aug 2021, 11:04 am  
**To:** Sturgeon N (Nicola) <Nicola.Sturgeon@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

Cabinet paper for Tuesday.  
Happy for it to issue?  
Ta

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | **T: 0131 24** [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | **M: 07** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 047***

**Enclosure 052, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** Sturgeon N (Nicola) <Nicola.Sturgeon@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 16 August 2021 18:08  
**To:** First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> on behalf of: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Date:** Monday, 16 Aug 2021, 5:48 pm  
**To:** Sturgeon N (Nicola) <Nicola.Sturgeon@gov.scot>, First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

FM

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Private Office to the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 051***

**Enclosure 053, FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** First Minister

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 18:22

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Lord Advocate <LordAdvocate@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)] [out of scope]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

5th Floor | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 049***

## Enclosure 054, FW: Speaking note

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 19:09

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

<CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent

Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of

Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science

<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle)

<Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie)

<Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick)

<Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza)

<Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)

<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise)

<Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

<CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David)

<David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Speaking note

Malcolm

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

I am waiting to hear back from Cab Sec but she may wish to have a quick Team meeting prior to Cabinet to cover off any additional questions she has.

Many thanks. Happy to discuss.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 17:40

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

Cc: Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Speaking note

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]/PO

Earlier today you requested a short note for Cab Sec to introduce the 2022 assessment paper at Cabinet tomorrow.

Please find attached the note

Thank you, have a lovely evening

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Enclosure 054.1, Attachment: FW: Cabinet: 17 August: Cabinet Paper:  
ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS 2021/22**

*The same as Enclosure 053*



**Enclosure 055, FW: Speaking note**

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 16 August 2021 20:49

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretariat inbox <CabinetSecretariat3@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Speaking note

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

We just spoke. Please find attached a revised speaking note. I will be available for a pre-brief tomorrow morning.

Thanks  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Pentland** | Deputy Director

Curriculum, Qualifications and Gaelic Division | email: malcolm.pentland@gov.scot | [tel:+44\(0\) 131 244 \[Redacted s38\(1\)\(b\)\]](tel:+44(0)131244[Redacted s38(1)(b)])

Learning Directorate | Area 2B North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 054**

**Enclosure 055.1, Attachment: Qualification 2022 Cabinet Paper – 17 Aug –  
Speaking Note**

[Redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

**Enclosure 056, FW: Speaking note**

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 08:04

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Griffin J (Joe) <Joe.Griffin@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Speaking note

Cabinet Secretary

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 055***

## **Enclosure 057, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022**

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 11:11

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Cabinet Secretary

Following this morning's Cabinet discussion, I attached an updated GIQ for your clearance (amendments shown in red). Comms colleagues will provide an updated draft NR for you to review ASAP.

In addition, please note the following:

- We will work with PO to lodge the GIQ for tomorrow.
- The NQ policy team will provide you with updated briefing on the approach, given the likelihood of media bids following the GIQ tomorrow.
- We will meet with Education Scotland urgently as you mentioned at Cabinet, to discuss the support package. This could include study support sessions, increasing the e-sgoil/ national e-learning offer, Easter revision classes and how the attainment advisors could be deployed to support learners living in poverty sitting exams in 2022. We will also discuss how we can ensure that the £215m SAC funding for this year supports learners ahead of the exam diet, including the possibility of engaging with local authority officers and headteachers on these issues, through ES.
- We will meet with SQA to discuss further the mitigations/ adaptations to exams and further comms through the NQ group on the contingency plan.
- The possible contents of the support package will be discussed with stakeholders, including young people, and at the forthcoming meetings of the Scottish Education Council and Children and Young People's Education Council.

Thanks  
Graeme.

**Enclosure 057.1, Attachment: Word Doc**

**GIQ – Wednesday**

**QUESTION**

*“To ask the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to provide an update on the assessment plans for National 5/Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2021/2022”*

**ANSWER**

I can confirm that the central planning assumption is that an examination diet for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will be held in session 2021/2022.

My decision has been informed by the views of stakeholders, including the National Qualifications Group, and by public health advice.

Assessment modifications across National courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA. **These modifications reduce the expected course content compared to a normal year, in recognition of the disruption learners have experienced. Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is a central concern for me. We will set out details on further support available for learners, particularly those living in poverty, in September.**

I can reassure Parliament that careful contingency planning is underway should there be further significant disruption to learning and teaching and, or public health conditions that do not allow for the holding of an examination diet. That planning is being done at pace by the National Qualifications Group, which has met frequently over the summer to consider options for the coming session. It will issue detailed guidance at the earliest opportunity.

**Enclosure 058, FW: Updated Education Recovery Next Steps document for comment**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 19:12

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSRC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Cumming A (Alison) Early Learning & Childcare <Alison.Cumming@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Director for Children and Families <DirectorforChildrenandFamilies@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Robertson C (Craig) <Craig.Robertson@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; SGLD School Education <SGLDSE@gov.scot>; Hicks C (Clare) <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Hamilton G (Gillian) <Gillian.Hamilton@educationscotland.gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Humphreys J (Julie) (DCAF) <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Roy D (David) <David.Roy@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Sheppard L (Lesley) <Lesley.Sheppard@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McManus J (Janie) <Janie.McManus@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Colvin I (Iona) <Iona.Colvin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Updated Education Recovery Next Steps document for comment

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

As per my note earlier today please find enclosed a further redraft on the Education Recovery document which has been repositioned as a "next steps" document that sets out education's contribution to Covid recovery. Where appropriate, this incorporates some late feedback from EIS after the discussion at CERG last week. It also includes a couple of case studies, one of which was offered by Education Scotland colleagues after the discussion at CERG.



@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Colvin I (Iona) <Iona.Colvin@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; CERG <CERG@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Submission - Education Recovery Strategy - Near final version for comment

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

With thanks to SG colleagues and partners who have contributed to this near final draft, please find attached short update note and latest version of the Education Recovery Strategy for Ms Somerville's attention.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best wishes

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

I am working remotely Monday-Friday and can be contacted via email, MS Teams or on

07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]



# Education Recovery: Key Actions and Next Steps

Out of scope

## 7. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Out of Scope

[FINAL TEXT ON NQ 22 TO BE CONFIRMED ]

### Next Steps

In addition to the work set out above, we will take the following key next steps to ensure our approach to national qualifications and assessment is robust and resilient, and supports recovery from the impacts of COVID-19:

- (1) Throughout the remainder of 2021 and into 2022, we will continue to monitor the approach to National Qualifications, taking action and implementing any contingencies if necessary to mitigate any further disruption for learners and the teaching/lecturer workforce whilst ensuring that fairness and credibility of the qualifications is maintained;
- (2) Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is a central concern. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September; and
- (3) We will work with partners to develop the future approach to assessment beyond 2022, informed by the OECD's report on comparative analysis of assessment and qualifications approaches expected at the end of August.

Out of scope

## **Enclosure 059, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 21:35  
**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Hi Malcolm, [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The Cab Sec is content with below. I would be grateful if you could please update on th tracker and send through to us so I can issue tomorrow for 0930.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 18:57  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please see proposed revised GIQ answer below for Ms Somerville's consideration. This now includes setting out, at a headline level, the key contingency measures. We recommend that the answer does not make specific reference to 'gear changes' (a working title not liked by all stakeholders involved in the development of the approach) or go into detail on what further modifications might look like (these will vary across courses and may not be possible in every course).

Thanks  
Malcolm

### **QUESTION**

*"To ask the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills to provide an update on the assessment plans for National 5/Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2021/2022"*

### **ANSWER**

I can confirm that the central planning assumption is that an examination diet for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will be held in session 2021/2022.  
My decision has been informed by the views of stakeholders, including the National Qualifications Group, and by public health advice.

Assessment modifications across National courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA. These modifications reduce the expected course content compared to a normal year, in recognition of the disruption learners have experienced. Fairness for learners sitting

exams in 2022 is a central concern for me. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September.

I can also confirm that careful contingency planning has taken place to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to respond to two key scenarios that might be faced as a result of the pandemic. First, in circumstances where there was further significant disruption to learning and teaching, a further round of modifications would be introduced in order to ease assessment. Second, should public health conditions do not allow for the holding of an examination diet in Spring 2022, awarding would be made on teachers' judgements based on normal in-year assessment.

These contingencies offer stability for teachers and learners in the coming academic session and will allow their focus to be on normal practices in teaching, learning and assessment. More detailed guidance will be issued by the SQA at the earliest opportunity.

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm)

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 18:17

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please hold off giving this to Ms Somerville at this stage will get back to you with an alternative as soon as possible.

Malcolm

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 18:06

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

I will send on to Cab Sec, at the moment she is content not to have a call this evening. But I will let you know if that changes once she had sight of below.

Thanks and sorry for any confusion.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 18:03

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Logan G

(Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I have this as an initial draft:

I can confirm that the central planning assumption is that an examination diet for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses will be held in session 2021/2022.

My decision has been informed by the views of stakeholders, including the National Qualifications Group, and by public health advice.

The National Qualifications 21 Group have met frequently over the summer to develop plans for this coming session. A 'gear change' model has been developed, describing a set of arrangements that enable the system to respond to different scenarios and which offer, as far as is possible, a pandemic-proof approach.

Their central planning assumption, first 'gear', has been that there will be examinations, with subject specific modifications, for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher in 2022.

In the event that additional disruption is experienced additional adaptations to the exams will be considered. This move into the second 'gear' may include adaptations to the content of the papers, such as the removal of certain content, or an indication to learners of the topics to be covered, through to the physical arrangements for sitting the papers, such as the use of multiple classrooms rather than assembly or gym halls, if public health advice advises certain approaches to large gatherings. If this change was invoked, it would happen at end of March to ensure reasonable course coverage for learners.

However, there is always the possibility of more significant disruption, and with it public health advice advising against large gatherings of people at the time of the exams. This would lead to the cancellation of the exams – much as what we have seen in the past two academic sessions.

As such, should a move into the third 'gear' be required, from the start of session 2021-2022 teachers and lecturers will be asked to plan and deliver assessments at appropriate times throughout the year. This will allow the capture of reliable and robust evidence of demonstrated attainment that could be used if required to

award grades to learners. I must stress that the volume and gathering of this evidence must be proportionate, quality not quantity is key. The NQ Group continues to develop the approach at pace and will issue further guidance when available.

Assessment modifications across National courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA. These modifications reduce the expected course content compared to a normal year, in recognition of the disruption learners have experienced. Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is a central concern for me. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September.

This set of contingencies gives sufficient flexibility to respond to the different scenarios that we might encounter. There will need to be a more exact formulation of the trigger point or threshold for the second 'gear' to be invoked; but the third 'gear' should be reserved only for the situation of public examinations not being able to go ahead, rather than for more general disruption to teaching and learning.

I can reassure Parliament that careful contingency planning is underway should there be further significant disruption to learning and teaching and, or public health conditions that do not allow for the holding of an examination diet. That planning is being done at pace by the National Qualifications Group, which has met frequently over the summer to consider options for the coming session. It will issue detailed guidance at the earliest opportunity.

I acknowledge that it is significantly longer than previous version – perhaps too long – however it will give Cab Sec something to reference when we speak.

Please note that [redacted s.38(1)(b)] has also emailed asking that I update the tracker but did not reference a call with the Cab Sec to discuss.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 17:31

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

<CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm)

<Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)] – will let Ms Somerville know and get back to you asap

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 17:26  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

I am available this evening and have the GIQ attached to me in PM tracker

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 17:24  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Hi Folks,

Ms Somerville needs to speak to someone about the GIQ and press release which she wishes to change - if that's still possible. She basically wants to include the contingency arrangements which are in the SQA letter. She would like to speak to someone tonight if possible.

Can someone give me a call to let me know whether that's possible  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 16:49  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Proposed letter to Fiona attached.

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2021 15:51  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

In terms of the “what”, the gear Change Model has been “signed-off” by the NQ21 Group. The “when” of the gear changes, and the “who” of the supporting learners etc, will be developed at pace.

I have drafted a reply to Fiona, edited in light of today’s cabinet meeting, and this is with Malcolm for checking. I feel Fiona should receive this reply before any announcement is made and we will work towards this.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 15:15

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Graeme

Cab Sec asked me if we had received a response to her query below yet. Is someone able to offer quick response?

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 17 August 2021 12:49

**To:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

**Importance:** High

Thanks Graeme

Cab Sec has made a slight change to the GIQ shown on attached. Grateful if [Redacted s38(1)(b)] (or whoever is holding the GIQ at present) could amend and resubmit.

Ms Somerville has also asked that in terms of the "gear change model" what needs to be done to get all of that signed off – is it finalised yet? Ms Somerville received a letter from SQA head recently – do we need to issue a reply to that first before anything can be done? What are the next stages on this piece of work?

Grateful if Comms could confirm time of release issuing (10.00am) so we can ensure Parly Clerks answer the GIQ ahead of that.

Many thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

T: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | M: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | E: cabsecES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 057***



## **Enclosure 060, FW: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 09:07

**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Thanks Malcolm. I've tweaked. David, you OK for me to get this to CabSec – she's pressing to see it? [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

## **National qualifications 2022**

**Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.**

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will be held in spring 2022 if public health advice allows.

The decision has been informed by public health advice and by the views of partners, including those on the National Qualifications Group, which includes representatives of young people, parents, teachers and other education professionals.

Course content has been reduced compared to a normal year to take account of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. These modifications have already been confirmed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Due to uncertainty over the pandemic, two contingency plans will be in place.

If there is further significant disruption to learning as a result of COVID-19, but it is still safe for exams to go ahead, there will be further modifications to courses and assessment.

If public health conditions do not allow for an exam diet to take place, awards will be made on teachers' judgements based on normal in-year assessment.

Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

"Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.

"Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is at the heart of our plans. Assessment modifications across national courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA in recognition of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September..

"Careful contingency planning has taken place in case there is further significant disruption to learning or if public health conditions do not allow for the holding of an examination diet.

“These contingencies offer stability for teachers and learners in the coming academic session and will allow their focus to be on normal practices in teaching, learning and assessment. More detailed guidance will be issued by the SQA at the earliest opportunity.”

#### Background:

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has modified course assessment requirements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course. This will reduce the volume of assessment, which will allow for any lost learning caused by the pandemic. It will also ease teacher, lecturer and learner workload, while still maintaining the credibility of the qualifications.

For most courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for session 2020-21. For some courses, SQA has, in response to feedback from teachers and learners, adjusted the modifications to give learners more opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

The SQA has published modification summary documents that provide more detail on these modifications and explain the assessment requirements for this year.

#### National Qualifications and Higher National and Vocational Qualifications in session 2021-22 - SQA

#### Tweet

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will go ahead in 2022 if safe to do so.

Contingency plans will be in place in case of further COVID disruption.

Education Secretary @S\_A\_Somerville says fairness to learners is at the heart of the plans

*Link to NR*

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**From:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 09:03

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Thanks Lana, minor suggested alt from me below.

Malcolm

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 08:53  
**To:** Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated GIQ: NQs in 2022

Morning all

Please see re-drafted news release based on re-written GIQ (now cleared by CabSec) I anticipate we'll get a lot of questions about the no-exams scenario (what comprises normal in-year assessments etc). Grateful for urgent views, given the time.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

## National qualifications 2022

**Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.**

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will be held in spring 2022 if public health advice allows.

The decision has been informed by public health advice and by the views of partners, including those on the National Qualifications Group, which includes representatives of young people, parents, teachers and other education professionals.

Course content has been reduced compared to a normal year to take account of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. These modifications have already been confirmed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Due to uncertainty over the pandemic, two contingency plans will be in place.

If there is further significant disruption to learning as a result of COVID-19, but it is still safe for exams to go ahead, there will be further modifications to courses and assessment.

If public health conditions do not allow for an exam diet to take place, awards will be made on teachers' judgements based on normal in-year assessment.

Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

"Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.

"Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is at the heart of our plans. Assessment modifications across national courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA in recognition of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September..

“Careful contingency planning has taken place in case there is further significant disruption to learning or if public health conditions do not allow for the holding of an examination diet.

“These contingencies offer stability for teachers and learners in the coming academic session and will allow their focus to be on normal practices in teaching, learning and assessment. More detailed guidance will be issued by the SQA at the earliest opportunity.”

Background:

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has modified course assessment requirements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course. This will reduce the volume of assessment, which will allow for any lost learning caused by the pandemic. It will also ease teacher, lecturer and learner workload, while still maintaining the credibility of the qualifications.

For most courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for session 2020-21. For some courses, SQA has, in response to feedback from teachers and learners, adjusted the modifications to give learners more opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

The SQA has published modification summary documents that provide more detail on these modifications and explain the assessment requirements for this year.

National Qualifications and Higher National and Vocational Qualifications in session 2021-22 - SQA

Tweet

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will go ahead in 2022 if safe to do so.

Contingency plans will be in place in case of further COVID disruption.

Education Secretary @S\_A\_Somerville says fairness to learners is at the heart of the plans

*Link to NR*

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

***This chain diverges from Enclosure 059 at the email of 17 August 2021 at 18:57***

**Enclosure 061, FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 09:52  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Cab Sec is content to clear.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 09:28  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet

**PS Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

Please see news release and Tweet below. Grateful for clearance.

Many thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

## National qualifications 2022

**Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.**

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will be held in spring 2022 if public health advice allows.

The decision has been informed by public health advice and by the views of partners, including those on the National Qualifications Group, which includes representatives of young people, parents, teachers and other education professionals.

Course content has been reduced compared to a normal year to take account of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. These modifications have already been confirmed by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Due to uncertainty over the pandemic, two contingency plans will be in place.

If there is further significant disruption to learning as a result of COVID-19, but it is still safe for exams to go ahead, there will be further modifications to courses and assessment.

If public health conditions do not allow for an exam diet to take place, awards will be made on teachers' judgements based on normal in-year assessment.

Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“Exams will take place next year if safe to do so.

“Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is at the heart of our plans. Assessment modifications across national courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA in recognition of the disruption to learning that young people have experienced. We will set out details on further support available for learners in September..

“Careful contingency planning has taken place in case there is further significant disruption to learning or if public health conditions do not allow for the holding of an examination diet.

“These contingencies offer stability for teachers and learners in the coming academic session and will allow their focus to be on normal practices in teaching, learning and assessment. More detailed guidance will be issued by the SQA at the earliest opportunity.”

#### Background:

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) has modified course assessment requirements for each National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher course. This will reduce the volume of assessment, which will allow for any lost learning caused by the pandemic. It will also ease teacher, lecturer and learner workload, while still maintaining the credibility of the qualifications.

For most courses, these are the same modifications that were put in place for session 2020-21. For some courses, SQA has, in response to feedback from teachers and learners, adjusted the modifications to give learners more opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.

The SQA has published modification summary documents that provide more detail on these modifications and explain the assessment requirements for this year.

National Qualifications and Higher National and Vocational Qualifications in session 2021-22 - SQA

Tweet

National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher exams will go ahead in 2022 if safe to do so.

Contingency plans will be in place in case of further COVID disruption.

Education Secretary @S\_A\_Somerville says fairness to learners is at the heart of the plans

*Link to NR*

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244 [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**Enclosure 062, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 10:07

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>;

EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>;

Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Anon@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A

(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)

<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)

<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>;

Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Assessment 2022 - briefing pack

**PO/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills,**

Further to this morning's GIQ being issued find attached a briefing pack on 2022 assessment

Thank you, have a lovely day

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]



## **ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATIONAL COURSES IN 2021/22**

### Background

Advice from officials on 4 August provided an update on a proposed approach for the assessment of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in the 2021-22 academic year that has been developed by the SQA in collaboration with the National Qualifications Group. On 6 August, the Chief Examining Officer wrote to you also outlining the proposed approach (detail on approach provided below).

On 10 August you indicated that you were content with assessment proposals.

Following a request from the First Minister for further information, Cabinet approved the proposals on 17 August.

The plan is that the GIQ (attached at Annex A) is lodged at 9:30 on 18 August with a news release issuing at approximately 10:00 confirming the central planning assumption for 2021/22 being the delivery of an exam diet with the already announced modifications take place but with contingencies developed for deploying if later required.

The NQ Group will then issue its own communication providing more detail on the contingencies - in the shape of further modifications/adaptations should the level of disruption increase, and, in a scenario where the diet had to be cancelled, the use of in-year assessment evidence (demonstrated attainment) to support teacher judged grades.

### Detail

#### **Development of arrangements**

- Over the summer period, the NQ21 Group has been giving further detailed consideration to a potential approach to the qualifications for the coming academic session, including contingencies.
- Creation of the assessment approach has been informed by experiences in session 2020/2021.
- The Group is clear that demonstrated attainment should continue to form the basis of any approach to the qualifications in 2021-22 to ensure both fairness and validity.
- Assessment modifications across National courses for the next academic session have already been confirmed by the SQA.

#### **Detail of modifications**

- Subject level modifications to assessment equate to reducing the expected course content by around 20% compared to a normal year. This reduction in course content, coupled with a reduction in assessment burden in almost all subject areas, should allow for a greater focus on learning and teaching.

- These existing modifications have been designed to create more flexibility to absorb some of the impact of disrupted learning, free up teachers and learners from some of the demands of the course, whilst having relatively minimal impacts upon validity and reliability.
- NQ21 has identified a preferred model to include mitigations to offset any further disruption to learning whether through self-isolation or future lockdowns, and any public health conditions impacting on delivery of an exam diet.
- This model includes a set of contingencies, with a clear understanding of when we would shift to a different plan, and under what conditions, is still to be developed at pace by the National Qualifications Group, which has met frequently over the summer to consider options for the coming session. It will issue detailed guidance at the earliest opportunity.
- The intent would be to have three stages to the contingency as follows:
  - (a) operate an exam diet with already announced modifications, and,
  - (b) if some degree of additional disruption is experienced, to insulate examinations against further disruption with further adaptation/modification to increase accessibility, decrease stress on learners etc – e.g. Advance Notice of Topic Areas for revision purposes, more use of Open Book etc.
  - (c) in the event that examinations become impossible because of public health restrictions / lockdown, then in-year assessment evidence will be used to support teacher judged grades.
- Fairness for learners sitting exams in 2022 is a central concern. Further support that will be available for learners will be issued in September.
- Any approach for the 2022 qualifications, will be based purely on ongoing effects of Covid-19, such as significant disruption to learning, and/or public health grounds. Decisions on the 2021/22 academic session are not an indication of any future direction for the qualifications which will be considered separately after due consultation.

[Out of scope]

## Q&A

### **Who have you consulted?**

- Over the summer period, the NQ21 Group has been giving further detailed consideration to a potential approach to the qualifications for the coming academic session, including contingencies.
- I've listened closely to what young people and their parents have been saying and my officials have engaged further with learners and parents and their representative organisations
- Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) and National Parents Forum for Scotland (NPFS) are both represented on the NQ21 Group
- We sought the views of learners through a number of channels. These included the SQA Learner Panel; SYP; Career Ready<sup>[1]</sup> students within Scottish Government and Education Scotland; the final meeting of the Youth Panel (Young Scot) and also a meeting of the Pupil Council.

---

<sup>[1]</sup> A programme available to S5 learners aimed at developing employability skills

- The views of parents on the approach for 2022 have been gathered through an online session set up with NPFS regional representatives, attended by an SG official, along with feedback captured at an internal NPFS discussion, which NPFS have shared:

#### **How will learners be supported?**

- We will meet with Education Scotland urgently (initial meeting scheduled for Friday 20 August at 9am), to discuss a support package. This could include study support sessions, increasing the e-sgoil/ national e-learning offer, Easter revision classes and how the attainment advisors could be deployed to support learners living in poverty sitting exams in 2022.
- We will also discuss how we can ensure that the £215m SAC funding for this year supports learners ahead of the exam diet, including the possibility of engaging with local authority officers and head teachers on these issues, through ES.
- We will meet with SQA to discuss further the mitigations/ adaptations to exams and further comms through the NQ group on the contingency plan.
- The possible contents of the support package will be discussed with stakeholders, including young people, and at the forthcoming meetings of the Scottish Education Council and Children and Young People's Education Council.

#### **Why go back to exams? OECD reform – why go back?**

- Any approach for the 2022 qualifications, will be based purely on ongoing effects of Covid-19, such as significant disruption to learning, and/or public health grounds.
- Decisions on the 2021/22 academic session are not an indication of any future direction for the qualifications which will be considered separately after due consultation.
- The recent OECD report made clear that Scotland needs assessment methods that better align with the aims of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Over the coming months, we will work to do that and we will be seeking views from across all shades of opinion to inform that work. This is, therefore, a welcome contribution to the debate that the OECD report sparked on the future of the awards system.

#### **How to avoid over-assessment / stress / workload**

- Subject level modifications to assessment equate to reducing the expected course content by around 20% compared to a normal year.
- This reduction in course content, coupled with a reduction in assessment burden in almost all subject areas, should allow for a greater focus on learning and teaching.
- From the start of the course and throughout session 2021-22, teachers and lecturers should gather examples of learners' work and keep a record of any normal, planned assessments that take place. This will provide a reliable collection of evidence that can be used to determine learners' grades if the exams are cancelled.
- To avoid increased assessment and additional workload, it is important that the evidence gathered is based only on planned work that learners will already be doing throughout the course. There is no need to carry out additional assessments.

We will provide all schools, colleges and training providers with more detailed information and guidance on our contingency arrangements for the 2022 exams.

**When would mitigations come into effect?**

- Public health advice remains key to decision making in this area.
- The National Qualifications Group will be setting out more detail on the a set of contingencies very soon.
- We will continue to monitor the position and any ongoing disruption to learning, although it is anticipated that the approach developed provides the flexibility to adapt to any significant levels of disruption.

[Out of scope]

**GOVERNMENT INITIATED QUESTION: ACADEMIC SESSION 2021/2022  
ASSESSMENT**

[redacted s.25(1): [Written question and answer: S6W-02185 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)]

**Enclosure 063, FW: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 12:30

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm)

<Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning

<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

<Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for

Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and

Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: FOR URGENT CLEARANCE: National qualifications news release, Tweet

CabSec/PO

For awareness, the SQA have now put out a statement on exams 2022.

Regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/98798.html>

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://news.gov.scot)

***This chain diverges from Enclosure 061 at the email of 18 August 2021 09:28***

**Enclosure 064, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack**

**From:** Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 14:19  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack

Malcolm/ [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

When replying it would be worth highlighting the EIS press release:

[Return of exams in 2022 - EIS comment](#)

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks  
Graeme.

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
**Sent:** 18 August 2021 14:11  
**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills  
<CabSecES@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>; EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>; Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansongov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A (Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison) <Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cab Sec has asked – [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

***The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 062***



## **Enclosure 065, FW: Exams announcement reaction**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 14:24

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm)

<Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning

<DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser)

<Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for

Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and

Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Exams announcement reaction

### **PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

The BBC has withdrawn their bid for today. The STV bid is outstanding. Pending confirmation of that bid and any others that may come in, the following reaction to the exams announcement may be helpful.

Regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**Beatrice Wishart:** “Requiring teachers to simultaneously plan for three separate eventualities may mean yet more workload strains. With some teachers still without jobs, the Scottish Government must make more permanent jobs available to help ease those burdens.

“While an announcement at this point in time is welcome, it will be difficult for teachers, pupils and parents to have faith in these plans when the system continues to be presided over by the same people who caused such disruption and upset both this year and last.”

“The lack of accountability at the top chipped away at the little trust that was left. The SQA needs to be reformed for the recovery, and that includes reconsidering who is in charge.”

**Oliver Mundell:** “The SNP had the entire summer period to give clarity on exams. The fact that they have only now given this belated update after the majority of schools have returned is a dereliction of duty. SNP Ministers have still failed to give an outright guarantee that exams will definitely go ahead next year. That will only serve to create more uncertainty for pupils, teachers and parents who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic.

“The SNP have presided over a shambolic and chaotic exam system over the last couple of years.”

**Larry Flanagan:** “It is no surprise that the Scottish Government has stated its intention to reinstate an exam diet in 2022, should public health advice allow. The EIS would have preferred to see exams by-passed for S4 students in the interests of supporting education recovery and wellbeing among this cohort. It remains to be seen whether the reductions in course content for this year as

recognition that young people have been adversely affected by the pandemic through no fault of their own, will suffice. It is essential that appropriate and robust contingencies are in place should it be necessary to cancel the exam diet on public health grounds. We saw earlier this year the damage caused by decisions being made too late without adequate contingencies in place and the huge workload and stress that was placed on students and staff as a result.”

“In the longer term, the process of reviewing the qualifications system and replacing the SQA must learn lessons from recent experience. The EIS has long been concerned regarding the lack of accountability of the Scottish Qualifications Authority to the teaching profession and the over-emphasis placed on annual high-stakes exams at the expense of continuous assessment. The EIS believes that now is an appropriate time to consider the future shape of learning and assessment in the senior phase, alternative models of timetabling and the timing of qualifications to better serve the needs of Scotland’s learners, as part of the process around replacing the SQA.” – Larry Flanagan, EIS General Secretary

**Dr Patrick Roach, General Secretary of the NASUWT:** “The NASUWT has been calling for teachers and pupils to be provided with further information about the plans for awarding qualifications in 2022 as a matter of urgency and it is welcome that some details are now emerging.

“We have made it clear to ministers and regulators that mitigations and contingency plans for 2022 will still be needed and having a range of options, as outlined by the Cabinet Secretary today, in place depending on the level of disruption over the next year is a sensible step.

“We now need to see further detail of how these plans are expected to work in practice.

“Whatever arrangements are adopted for qualifications in 2022 they must ensure fairness for students, reflect the level of disruption they have experienced to their education and also ensure the unacceptable and avoidable workload pressures teachers experienced in the last academic year are not repeated.”

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Communications Education & Skills

Desk: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)

**Enclosure 066, FW: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 14:49

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Gorman G (Gayle) <Gayle.Gorman@educationscotland.gov.scot>;

EdS\_OCEX@educationscotland.gov.uk; Bray O (Ollie) <Ollie.Bray@educationscotland.gov.scot>;

Anson S (Sam) <Sam.Ansen@gov.scot>; Wilson M (Mick) <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Drought A

(Andrew) <Andrew.Drought@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Taylor A (Alison)

<Alison.Taylor@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)

<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; [Redacted

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McKay D (Denise) <Denise.McKay@gov.scot>; Communications

Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Assessment 2022 - briefing pack

Hello

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

It may be worth noting that the Working Group are meeting this afternoon to further discuss the third (no exams) contingency, and the Comms Working Group are discussing the messaging around gathering attainment evidence tomorrow morning. I am attending both.

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

***This chain diverges from Enclosure 059 at the email of 18 August 2021 14:11***

**Enclosure 067, FW: Bid - GMS - exams 2022 - Thursday 19 August**

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 19:44

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Bid - GMS - exams 2022 - Thursday 19 August

**PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

Further to my earlier note, I wanted to confirm that the NQ working group met this afternoon. This is a sub group of the main NQ21 group. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]EIS have already provided official [comment](#).

Thank you

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 18:04

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Bid - GMS - exams 2022 - Thursday 19 August

[Redacted s38(1)(b)],

I would be grateful if you could put together some lines ahead of GMS tomorrow morning regarding the NQ meeting you attended this evening

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 18 August 2021 15:16

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills <CabSecES@gov.scot>

**Cc:** Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducation&Skills@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Pentland MK (Malcolm) <Malcolm.Pentland@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Livey D (David) <David.Livey@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Minister for Children & Young People <MinisterCYP@gov.scot>; Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Bid - GMS - exams 2022 - Thursday 19 August

### **PS Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

The BBC has called to see if Ms Somerville is available for interview live on GMS tomorrow at 08:05 to talk about the exams announcement. It would be with Gary Robertson or Laura Maxwell and could be done via Skype or Facetime but they have said that if CabSec wants to come into the studio (or The Tun) she could.

They are also going to ask Oliver Mundell to come on the programme earlier in the morning and they will ask Ms Somerville about his comments.

SpAds recommend accept. Grateful if Ms Somerville could consider the bid.

Many thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Desk: 0131 244[Redacted s38(1)(b)]; 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Scottish Government | [news.gov.scot](https://www.news.gov.scot)