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Enclosure 01 – Email: Plan B update

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2021 11:25
To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Plan B update

Hi Beth

Analytical colleagues have provided the attached, [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

The following may also be helpful going forward so you have access to the latest published data:

2020-21 Data to December 2020:
[COVID19-SchoolsandChildcareInformation | Tableau Public](#)

2020-21 Data to July 2021:
[COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information 2021 | Tableau Public](#)

2021-22 Data:
[COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 | Tableau Public](#)

Let me know if you need anything more. Happy to chat further if helpful.

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

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 20 December 2021 14:03
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Plan B update

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Would be really keen if you could somehow get hold of the historical data broken down as per this slide? [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

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

I'll also send a copy of whole ppt and paper so you can see everything.

I'm around tomorrow but in theory off this afternoon!

Kind regards

Beth

Beth Black
Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 December 2021 12:09
To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Plan B update

Hi Beth

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] is now on leave so apologies if you have already sent something separately to her. I'm due to send an update to Cab Sec today on the Plan B contingencies and triggers, [Out of scope]. Would you be able to send across a summary of your planning along the lines of the slides you talked us through last week that I can use to inform this? [Out of scope] but would be helpful if you could send me on the slides from the meeting and/or let me know if any aspects have moved on since then.

If there's any issues with the above, please let me know and happy to have a chat this afternoon if helpful.

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

Enclosure 01.1 – Excel attachment

Worksheet 1:

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

Worksheet 2:

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

Enclosure 02 – Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2021 14:16
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

[Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Please find attached updated spreadsheet. I have added covid related absence rates for S4, S5 and S6 individually for 2021. I'm afraid I don't have the combined senior phase figure or equivalent figures for 2020. We could provide that in January if needed.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2021 13:44
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Please see Beth's query further down this email chain on whether we could generate a graphic for S4/5/6 of the *% young people not in school because of covid-related reasons* – probably for both 2020 and 2021. Is this something that we could readily pull together or would it be something for [Redacted s38(1)(b)]'s team after the break? I'm guessing they could probably pull the data out from the public tableau to create it themselves if they needed it sooner, although probably a time consuming approach?

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 21 December 2021 12:16
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]: here they are. [Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

I also have a question about the 'sustained absence' – I got the latest week from this page from tableau) – see screenshot – it's the bottom line. But it is all year groups. Might it be possible for SG analysts to create a similar graph for S4/5/6? Might it be possible for SG analysts to create a similar graph for S4/5/6?

Thanks!

COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 by [SG Education Analytical Services: Learning Analysis](#)



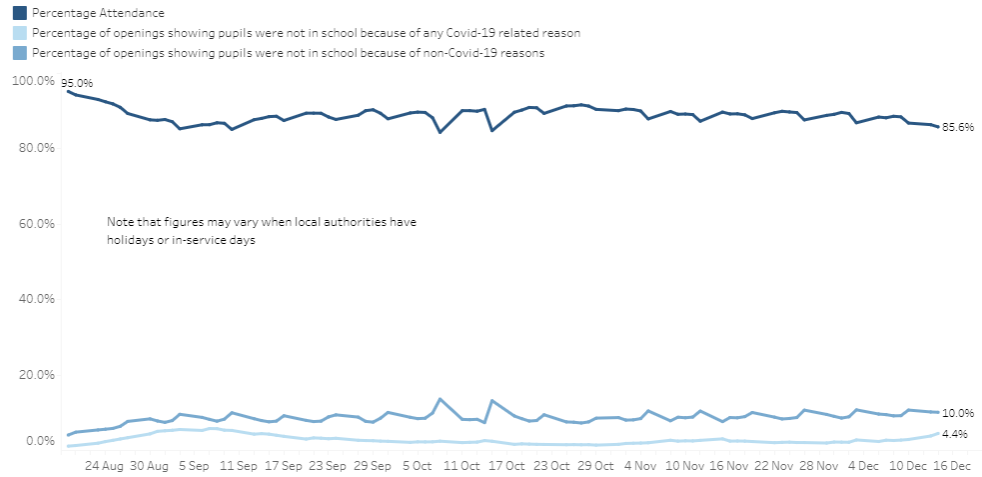
Introduction | School Attendance & Absence | School LA map | School Characteristics | School Staff Absence | Cumulative Pupil Attendance | Child >

Percentage of children and young people attending and not in school because of Covid-19 related reasons, 2021/22



Please select the area you are interested in

*All local authorities



Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
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Remainder of email chain out of scope

Enclosure 02.1 – Excel attachment

Worksheet 1:

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

Worksheet 2:

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

Enclosure 03 – Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2021 14:25
To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

Hi Beth

My analytical colleague has updated the attached spreadsheet with covid related absence rates for S4, S5 and S6 individually for 2021. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)] I'm wondering if some of the info you're looking for is available under the school or pupil characteristic tab of the public tableau – although it may not be directly comparable between 2020 and 2021 as the data captured was slightly different?

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

This chain diverges from Enclosure 02 after the email of 21 December 2021 12:16

Enclosure 03.1 – Excel attachment

Duplicate of Enclosure 02.1

Enclosure 04 – Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

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

Sent: 21 December 2021 14:27

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

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

Subject: RE: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

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

Have sent that on and flagged that anything more would need to wait til the new year. I've also suggested they might be able to pull some of the info from the public tableau data – although may not be directly comparable as I think we're now collecting more broken down data than previously.

Cheers

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of the email chain is the same as Enclosure 02

Enclosure 05 – Email: Briefing - Plan B

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

Sent: 21 December 2021 17:06

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 for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; [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 - Plan B, [out of scope]

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached a briefing note providing an outline of SQA's decision process and criteria for invoking the Plan B contingency for the National Qualifications, [Out of scope.]

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

Enclosure 05.1 – Word attachment

UPDATE ON NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - PLAN B CONTINGENCY, [Out of scope]

Purpose

1. To provide an outline of SQA's criteria for invoking the Plan B contingency for the National Qualifications, [Out of scope].

Priority

2. Routine.

Criteria for invoking “Plan B” / “Scenario 2”

Background

[Out of scope]

Criteria for invoking Plan B; what data and other information will be called upon?

10. SQA have been working on the criteria under which Plan B might be invoked. These criteria are being finalised [redacted s.30(b)(i)]

[Paragraphs 11-13 redacted under s.30(b)(ii)]

Process and governance

15. SQA have set out the following governance process around any decisions:

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

[Paragraphs 16-39 redacted as out of scope]

Conclusion

40. The Cabinet Secretary is invited to note the latest position in relation to Plan B, [out of scope].

[Paragraphs 41 and 42 redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

21 December 2021

Appendix 1 [Out of scope]

Enclosure 06 – Email: keeping you in the loop

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 22 December 2021 11:54

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

Subject: keeping you in the loop

Thanks, both, for the data.

We have reviewed the thresholds and added in a bit more detail. On that basis, I thought you might find it useful to see the version of the paper as it stands.

I'm on leave from this afternoon ... but I will be checking on emails etc when I can. So do just email or perhaps, better, message me if there is anything at all – 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Kind regards

b

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

Enclosure 06.1 – Word attachment

Approach to, and criteria for, invoking “Plan B” / “Scenario 2”

Background

[Out of scope]

The key questions for this paper to lay out, in relation to Plan B

1. What is the criteria for invoking Plan B? what data and other information will be called upon?
2. What will be the process and governance around the decision?
3. A separate, but related question - if Plan B were invoked, when might it be implemented?
4. What is the role of CERG and NQ 22 Steering Group?

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

What is the criteria for invoking Plan B; what data and other information will be called upon?

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

Rationale for Thresholds

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

Process and governance

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

Timing of Implementation

[Out of scope]

Enclosure 07 – Email: teacher absence figures & Plan B

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 12:51
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>
Subject: RE: teacher absence figures & Plan B

I should also say that this return only covers Covid-related absences [redacted s.30(b)(ii)][Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 13 January 2022 12:49
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>
Subject: RE: teacher absence figures & Plan B

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The staff absence figures

1. Do such staff appear in the 'teaching staff' categories? Or in the 'other school based staff' categories?

Support staff should appear in the 'other school based staff'. This category is everyone except 'teachers'.

2. Also, are there any other kinds of staff who appear in the 'other school based staff' categories? Eg admin staff, cleaning, catering etc?

Yes, the 'other school based staff' should be including any staff (except teachers)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 11:36
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>
Subject: RE: teacher absence figures & Plan B

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sorry to chase, are you able to respond on my email below?

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

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

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 12 January 2022 13:59
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>
Subject: FW: teacher absence figures & Plan B

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

Was wondering whether you could confirm the position in relation to the query in the email from SQA below on support staff absences? They're looking for a response today if possible.

Also, SQA have developed the below set of thresholds to inform any decision on whether to move to Plan B on the qualifications and provide additional revision support for learners. Would you be happy to link in with their analyst, [redacted s.38(1)(b)], to discuss any queries and make sure they have the latest available data on this?

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

Happy to have a chat on the above or facilitate a call with SQA if helpful.

Many thanks,
[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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 12 January 2022 12:35
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: teacher absence figures & Plan B

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

Wondered if you help me on the 'school staff absence' data. I've been thinking about a point that was raised by SYP at NQ group on Friday... that, ideally, we should include 'support staff' – ie those who support learners who have assessment arrangements, specific needs etc, in the staff absence data thresholds. This makes sense to me as it is important learners with additional support needs are recognised in the impact of staff absence

Do such staff appear in the 'teaching staff' categories? Or in the 'other school based staff' categories?

Also, are there any other kinds of staff who appear in the 'other school based staff' categories? Eg admin staff, cleaning, catering etc?

Hoping to finalise today if at all possible!
Thanks

B

Beth Black
Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

Enclosure 08 – Email: tracker

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 14:00
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: tracker

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I'll now look at what the SQA are looking for (I got an email from [redacted s.38(1)(b)] yesterday).

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 13:31
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: tracker
Importance: High

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

To see the email below from colleagues in SQA; it looks like they have been in touch directly. Are you able to provide them with some data this pm? I've asked them if we can prioritise the most important elements as conscious you have a number of demands on you at the moment, and will let you know if I get that.

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

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2022 13:09
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: tracker

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

Hope you are both well today.

I think Herb (Head of Stats) and [Redacted s38(1)(b)] (analyst) (copied) have been in touch with SG colleagues to help us setting up our tracker. I think we are keen to share some of the tracker at NQ22 group tomorrow morning to show we are monitoring. But I'm not sure we've managed to get the data. Is there something we can do to help us in that?

Thanks

B

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

Enclosure 09 – Briefing - Plan B

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

Sent: 14 January 2022 17:14

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>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@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>

Subject: RE: Briefing – Plan B, [Out of scope]

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

There are a couple of updates to provide to Cabinet Secretary; for speed, I've incorporated them into this one email.

Response to Cabinet Secretary's queries on Plan B, [out of scope]

Further to Cabinet Secretary's comments in the email below, I've attached responses which are incorporated into the comments function in the document.

NQ22 Group 14 January 2022 – readout

The NQ22 Group met today and covered Scenario 2; [Out of scope]. No papers were provided for the meeting.

The discussions tended to cross-over with different items on the agenda; here is a summary of the key points raised:

- [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]
- [redacted s.30(b)(i)]
- [redacted s.30(b)(ii)] - [Out of scope]

Officials met Beth Black separately today who indicated:

- [redacted s.30(b)(i)];
- [Out of scope.]

Meeting with Chief Examining Officer – Wednesday 19 January – draft agenda

Cabinet Secretary is meeting Fiona Robertson for a pre-arranged catch-up next Wednesday; we would propose the following draft agenda but obviously welcome any feedback if Cabinet Secretary would like to cover other areas.

1. Update and discussion on exam delivery for 2022, including consideration of scenarios 2 [Out of scope]
2. [Out of scope]
3. [Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Head of Qualifications and Learner Pathways Unit | Education Reform Directorate | Scottish Government |

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

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

Sent: 22 December 2021 12:49

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 for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@gov.scot>; Lively D (David) <David.Lively@gov.scot>; [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: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Ms Somerville has made a number of comments/questions on the attached. Grateful if you could consider and revert with further advice in due course.

Many thanks.

[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

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

Sent: 21 December 2021 17:06

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 for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@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>
Subject: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Please find attached a briefing note providing an outline of SQA's decision process and criteria for invoking the Plan B contingency for the National Qualifications, [Out of scope.]

Kind 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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

Enclosure 09.1 – Word document

Duplicate of Document at Enclosure 5.1

Ministerial comments redacted under s30(b)(ii)

Enclosure 10 – National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021)

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 16 January 2022 14:22
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021)
Importance: High

Hi Herb

Having looked at your request in more detail, below (in red) are my thoughts/comments:

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 14 January 2022 16:25
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021)
Importance: High

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

Thank you very much for providing the links below. We have been asked to provide some insights for Monday, so would be grateful for your urgent help with three challenges (see below) that we're facing.

The data that we are using to track most of the 'Plan B' measures are pulled from [COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 | Tableau Public](#).

Whilst there may be similarly-named data fields in other places, we are keen to use a single source to ensure that we're reporting the same thing every time.

At the moment, we're struggling with two measures that we pull from the 'Cumulative Pupil Attendance' tab in that Tableau tool. Are you able to help us please?

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

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

Daily absences by stage are included in the online Tableau (under the School Characteristics tab). [COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 | Tableau Public](#)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] – [Redacted s30(b)(ii)]: [Detailed analysis \(data.gov.scot\)](#)
Herb – [Redacted s30(b)(ii)]

Grateful for your help with the above.

If a conversation is required, I am available to talk.

As indicated, we are under pressure to provide the insights for Monday, so any early assistance with this would be appreciated.

Regards,

Herb

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 13 January 2022 14:30
To: Herb.Costillo@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: FW: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021)

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 January 2022 14:15
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021)

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Apologies for the delay in replying. What's currently available (and when) is as follows:

Updated Daily

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): daily data for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) – Education sub-section

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): trends in daily data - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Updated Weekly (each Thursday)

[COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 | Tableau Public](#)

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 11 January 2022 18:37

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and
Childcare Information August 2021)

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

I sent the email below to [Redacted s38(1)(b)]. In his absence I hope that you can assist us. Our goal is to ensure that all learners are treated fairly this year and your published statistical data is providing us with vital information.

We'd appreciate your assistance.

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

t: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]| e: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk | w: www.sqa.org.uk
Scottish Qualifications Authority
Gullane

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

Sent: 11 January 2022 18:04

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

Cc: Herb.Costillo@sqa.org.uk

Subject: National Qualifications Examinations 2022 - (Covid19 – Schools and
Childcare Information August 2021)

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

For contingency planning purposes, the SQA Statistics team are analysing data from your '*Covid19 – Schools and Childcare Information August 2021*' publication that will assist us to finalise diet 2022 arrangements.

To help us closely monitor the situation and speedily deal with any issues faced, it will be extremely useful if future data is made available to SQA on a daily basis. We are currently using information from the 'School Staff Absence' and 'Cumulative Pupil Attendance' tabs.

Any assistance offered will be gratefully received. Please let me know if you need any further information.

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Statistics

Policy, Analysis and Standards

t: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]| e: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk | w: www.sqa.org.uk
Scottish Qualifications Authority

Enclosure 11 – Absence data chat

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 17 January 2022 16:13
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat
Importance: High

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

I was great meeting you both earlier.

As discussed, we are trying to (regularly) populate the Table below (or something like it); to enable SQA to track various measures for triggering the Plan B option for 2022.

However, up-to-date values for some of the measures are not available via the publicly available Tableau dashboard.

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

Agreed Actions/Next Steps.

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

Again, thank you for your time today and happy to grab a quick chat any time, if necessary.

Regards,

Herb

m: 07 [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | e: herb.castillo@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: 17 January 2022 11:16
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

No problem at all. I could bring the meeting forward if that would help?

Also attached are a couple of documents I recall producing a month or so ago (if this helps the discussion)

Same information – but presented differently...

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 17 January 2022 11:10

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

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

Subject: RE: Absence data chat

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

Thank you very much for organising this.

I am interviewing at 2 pm, so will have to leave by then.

Hopefully, we should have wrapped this up in 30 minutes.

Regards,

Herb

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

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

Sent: 17 January 2022 10:43

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Herb Castillo; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: Absence data chat

When: 17 January 2022 13:30-14:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Out of scope]

Enclosure 11.1 – FW: Absence data chat

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

Enclosure 12 – Email: Absence data chat

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 09:41
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Attached are the two emails I can find where information was sent across. [Redacted s30(b)(ii)].

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

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 09:28
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I hope you can help. I'm working with Herb at the SQA to provide them with weekly updates on pupil attendance/absence figures,

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 11

Enclosure 12.1 – Email attachment

Duplicate of Enclosure 02

Enclosure 12.2 – Email attachment

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Sent: 21 December 2021 11:03
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] @gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Plan B update

[Redacted s38(1)(b)],
Please find attached historic (2020) and most up to date 2021 data for threshold measures below. [Redacted s30(b)(ii)].
Thanks,
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

This chain diverges from Enclosure 01 after the email of 20 December 2021 at 14:03

Enclosure 12.2.1 – Excel attachment

The same as Enclosure 01.1

Enclosure 12.3 – Email attachment

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 15 December 2021 15:55
To: 'Beth Black' <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: absence data

Hi Beth

I think this is the closest I can get – Cab Sec asked for very similar data from the analysts recently – this is attached. There are two versions – the first has more of the raw data and the second draws out data and key messages as follows:

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

There isn't any information for 2019 I'm afraid.

Hope that helps.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 15 December 2021 13:54
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: absence data

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

We are working up the stuff on Plan B and you asked if there was any additional data we might need over and above the links you have sent which are immensely useful

I was wondering if you could point me in the direction of a couple of things

1. School absence data for 2019 and 2020 [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]
2. Staff absence data for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021
3. School absence/attendance % by breakdown of year group (and by type of absence)
[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Whether we have any information on the non-covid absence [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Hope this makes sense and happy to chat if easier.

Kind regards

Beth

Beth Black
Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

e: beth.black@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority

Enclosure 12.3.1 – PPoint attachment

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

Enclosure 12.3.2 – PPoint attachment

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

Enclosure 13 – Briefing - Plan B

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 12:25
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

The conversations I had had was with [Redacted s38(1)(b)] (ES) and [redacted s.30(b)(ii)] yesterday about this issue.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 12:20
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; that's an interesting point and we will bear in mind for the debate tomorrow.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Head of Qualifications and Learner Pathways Unit | Education Reform 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)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 12:18
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

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

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 10:23
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>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr

<Linda.Pooley@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>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Emma Sinclair [Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Head of Qualifications and Learner Pathways Unit | Education Reform Directorate | Scottish Government |

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
Sent: 18 January 2022 09:57
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; 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>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@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>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

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

Ms Somerville has noted.

[Out of scope]

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Deputy 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

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

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:40

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

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

Cc: Minister for HE, FE, Youth Employment and Training <MinisterHEFEYET@gov.scot>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@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>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

On the point about providing data to the SQA for Plan B, SG analysts are in contact with SQA analysts to ensure the evidence is robust and relevant, and are aware of the urgency of the task.

[Out of scope]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Head of Qualifications and Learner Pathways Unit | Education Reform 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)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Sent: 17 January 2022 11:16

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; 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>; DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@gov.scot>; Director of Learning <DirectorofLearning@gov.scot>; McLean L (Liza) <Liza.McLean@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Webster H (Helen) <Helen.Webster@gov.scot>; Pooley L (Linda) Dr <Linda.Pooley@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>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Briefing - Plan B, [out of scope]

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Ms Somerville has noted and asked that we ensure we are doing everything possible to provide any necessary data for the SQA to move to a decision on Plan B as soon as they can. [Out of scope.]

[Out of scope]

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

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The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 09

Enclosure 14 – Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 18 January 2022 14:48

To: [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>

Subject: FW: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

Importance: High

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

Is it possible to provide a similar single percentage for S4, S5 and S6 pupils (combined)?

redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

At some point, it would be useful to understand how the value is calculated. We can pick that up later.

Happy to chat as usual. (See mobile no. below)

Regards,

Herb

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

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 02

Enclosure 14.1 – Excel attachment

The same as Enclosure 02.1

Enclosure 15 – Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

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

Sent: 18 January 2022 15:11

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [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>

Subject: RE: Plan B Update and a question about absence underneath!

Hi Herb

Happy to discuss, [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

I hope this helps and makes sense, but happy to have a chat.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of the chain is the same as Enclosure 14

Enclosure 16 – Absence data chat

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 16:11
To: [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>
Subject: FW: Absence data chat
Importance: High

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

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)] However, the ultimate aim will be that all the information the SQA require will be available from our online dashboard (which is updated every Thursday afternoon). [COVID19 - Schools and Childcare Information August 2021 | Tableau Public](#)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 18 January 2022 15:07
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: 'Herb Castillo' <Herb.Castillo @sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat
Importance: High

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)](et al)

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

Thanks.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

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

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 11

Enclosure 16.1 – Excel attachment

Worksheet 1:

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

Enclosure 17 – Absence data chat

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

Sent: 18 January 2022 16:21

To: Director for Education Reform <DirectorforEducationReform@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>

Subject: FW: Absence data chat

Importance: High

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

Clare – [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

Best regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of the chain is the same as Enclosure 16

Enclosure 18 – Absence data chat

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 17:38
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Hi Herb

I think you've highlighted the issue. [redacted s.30(b)(ii)]

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 18 January 2022 17:12
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

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

Thanks for your efforts with this, and in particular, for the individual COVID absence rates for S4, S5 and S6.

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

Regards,
Herb

This chain diverges from Enclosure 16 after the email of 18 January 2022 15:07

Enclosure 18.1 – Email attachment

This attachment is the same as Enclosure 02

Enclosure 18.2 – Excel attachment

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

Enclosure 19 – Absence data chat

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 17:46
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

No problem Herb – [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Out of scope]. All being well the cumulative analysis should be with you tomorrow.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 18 January 2022 17:44
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

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

Thanks for that. Very much appreciated. (And yes, I am excluding the immediate pre/post Christmas period!)

If we can now get the cumulative values for Measures 1 and 2, we can really get this moving.

Thanks again.

Herb

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 18

Enclosure 20 – Absence data chat

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

Sent: 18 January 2022 17:52

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>

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

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

Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Now with estimated S4-S6 Covid absence figures for yesterday for which the individual stage absence rates will be released on Tableau on Thursday afternoon.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 18

Enclosure 20.1 – Excel attachment

Same as Enclosure 18.2

Enclosure 21 – Word document: National Qualifications - Note of meeting between Cabinet Secretary and Chief Examining Officer SQA - 19 January 2022

**MINUTES OF MEETING BETWEEN CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS, CHIEF EXAMINING OFFICER AND CHAIR OF SQA
Wednesday 19 January 2022**

Present: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (*Chair*), David Middleton, Chair of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and Fiona Robertson, Chief Examining Officer (SQA).

In attendance: Clare Hicks, Director of Education Reform, SG; [Redacted s38(1)(b)], National Qualifications team, SG.

Discussion

1. Shirley-Anne Somerville, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Update and discussion on exam delivery for 2022, including consideration of scenarios 2 [Out of scope]

2. Fiona Robertson, Chief Examining Officer, set out the current position in relation to exam delivery for 2022 and specifically in relation to Scenario 2 being invoked. SQA had discussed Scenario 2 with the National Qualifications 2022 (NQ22) group and the importance of a joined-up and coherent approach from all elements of the system to deliver at a national level.
3. Scottish Government analytical colleagues were supporting SQA analysts in identifying appropriate data to inform criteria about when Scenario 2 should be invoked. SQA would be providing advice to their Board shortly. While the decision on whether to invoke Scenario 2 would be announced as soon as the quantitative and qualitative evidence justified it, the implementation would not be immediate, to avoid constraining learning and teaching, and to allow time for the appropriate revision support materials to be prepared.
4. Cabinet Secretary welcomed the update and the clear plan for national qualifications from the SQA which had provided a robust framework for approaching National Qualifications this year. It was particularly important to understand stakeholder views and the more qualitative feedback to inform considerations about whether to invoke Scenario 2.
5. [Out of scope.]

Action: SQA to provide operational timeline to SG officials to inform ministerial decision making if necessary.

[Out of scope]

Curriculum and Qualifications
21 January 2022

Enclosure 22 – Email: – EDUCATION SCOTLAND - IMPACT OF OMICRON ON SCHOOLS PER LOCAL AUTHORITY

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

Sent: 20 January 2022 10:44

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: EDUCATION SCOTLAND - IMPACT OF OMICRON ON SCHOOLS PER LOCAL AUTHORITY

Hi Fiona/Beth

For information in case helpful with your considerations around decisions on Scenario 2, please see below an update that has been shared with us from Education Scotland's Senior Regional Advisors on the impact the current Omicron situation is having on schools per local authority. We are expecting to receive a weekly update on this each Wednesday.

[Out of scope]

Staffing

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

[Out of scope]

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)].

Enclosure 23 – Absence data chat

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 January 2022 19:00
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>;
Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Hi Herb

That is correct.

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

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2022 16:33
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Beth Black
<Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

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

Thanks for this, as usual.

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

We may want to show/assess both.

Happy to discuss.

Herb

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot < [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 January 2022 20:28
To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@sqa.org.uk>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Subject: RE: Absence data chat

Hi Herb

[redacted s.30(b)(ii)]
Happy to discuss further.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The rest of this chain is the same as Enclosure 18