

## INDEX OF ENCLOSURES

No.	Description	Date	Explanation of redactions	Clause
01	Enclosure 01– Email 28 November 16:53 - RE: 16:30 Meeting re SQA Committee Appearance	28 November 2024	Personal information  Information not in scope of the request	[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Redacted – information not in scope]
01.1	Enclosure 01.1 – 28 November 16:53 - Attachment - h-history-review-	28 November 2024	Information readily available  <a href="#">Higher History Review 2024</a>	[Redacted s25(1)]
02	Enclosure 02 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION	02 December 2024	Personal Information  Free and frank exchange of views/advice to ministers  Information not in scope of the request	[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Redacted s30(b)(i)]  [Redacted – information not in scope]
02.1	Enclosure 02.1 – Attachment – 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING - Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 - Wednesday 4 December 2024 - 1230-1330 - Cabinet Secretary briefing	02 December 2024	Information readily available: <a href="#">SQA Higher history: a view from the principal assessor and senior team leader  Tes</a>  Free and frank exchange of	[Redacted s25(1)]  [Redacted s30(b)(i)]

			views/advice to ministers  Personal Information  Information not in scope of the request	[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Redacted – information not in scope]
02.2	Enclosure 02.2 – Attachment – 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf	02 December 2024	Information readily available.  <a href="#">Education (Scotland) Bill - Stage 1 Report   Scottish Parliament</a>	[Redacted s25(1)]
03.0	Enclosure 03 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02	[Duplicate]
03.1	Enclosure 03.1 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – BRIEFING – Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 – Wednesday 4 December 2024 12:30 – 1:30 – Cabinet Secretary Briefing	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02.1	[Duplicate]
03.2	Enclosure 03.2 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02.2	[Duplicate]
04.0	Enclosure 4.0 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02	[Duplicate]

	HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION			
04.1	Enclosure 04.1 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING – Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 – Wednesday 4 December 2024 12:30 – 1:30 – Cabinet Secretary Briefing	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02.1	[Duplicate]
04.2	Enclosure 04.2 - Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf	02 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 02.2	[Duplicate]
05.0	Enclosure 05.0 – Email – 03 December 2024 15:08 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION	03 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 06	[Duplicate]
05.1	Enclosure 05.1 – Attachment – 03 December 2024 2024 15:08 - ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History	03 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 06.1	[Duplicate]
06.0	Enclosure 06 – Email – 03 December 2024 16:01 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION	03 December 2024	Personal Information  Free and frank exchange of views/advice to ministers  Information not in scope of the request  Duplicate of Enclosure 02	[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Redacted s30(b)(i)]  [Redacted – information not in scope]  [Duplicate]
06.1	Enclosure 06.1 – Attachment - 03 December 2024 03 December 2024 16:01 – ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History _ CH	03 December 2024	Free and frank exchange of views/advice to minister	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

06.2	<b>Enclosure 06.2 comments on document – Attachment - 03 December 2024 03 December 2024 16:01 – ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History _ CH</b>	03 December 2024	Free and frank exchange of views/advice to minister	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]
07.0	<b>Enclosure 07 – Email - 03 December 2024 16:01- RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION</b>	03 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 06	[Duplicate]
07.1	<b>Enclosure 07.1 - Attachment - 03 December 2024 16:01 - ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History _ CH</b>	03 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 06.1	[Duplicate]
08.0	<b>Enclosure 08 – Email - 03 December 2024 16:36 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION</b>	03 December 2024	Personal information  Duplicate of Enclosure 02	[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Duplicate]
08.1	<b>Enclosure 08.1 – Attachment - 03 December 2024 16:36 – HH PA article</b>	03 December 2024	Available Online/Already Published  <a href="#">SQA Higher history: a view from the principal assessor and senior team leader  Tes</a>	[Redacted s25(1)]
09.0	<b>Enclosure 09 – Email – 03 December 2024 16:36 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED</b>	03 December 2024	Duplicate of enclosure 8	[Duplicate]

	<b>INFORMATION</b>			
09.1	Enclosure 09.1 – Attachment – 03 December 2024 16:36 – HH PA article	03 December 2024	Duplicate of Enclosure 08.1	[Duplicate]
10.0	Enclosure 10 – Email – 03 December 2024 17:47 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION	03 December 2024	Free and frank exchange of views/advice to ministers  Personal information  Information not in scope of the request  Duplicate of Enclosure 02	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]  [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  [Redacted – information not in scope]  [Duplicate]
11.0	Enclosure 11 – Email - 03 December 2024 18:07 – Additional briefing committee appearance	03 December 2024	Information not in scope of the request	[Redacted – information not in scope]
12.0	Enclosure 12 – Email – 03 December 2024 18:09 - Additional briefing committee appearance	03 December 2024	Duplicate of enclosure 11.0	[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 01 – Email 28 November 16:53 - RE: 16:30 Meeting re SQA Committee Appearance**

**From:** Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 28 November 2024 16:55  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: 16:30 Meeting re SQA Committee Appearance

Clare Hicks  
Director for Education Reform  
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim  
Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
You can contact me on: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted – information not in scope]

**From:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024  
**Sent:** 28 November 2024 16:53  
**To:** Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** 16:30 Meeting re SQA Committee Appearance

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

Could you send over the SQA report now so Cab Sec can look at it over the weekend ?

Thanks,  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)] **Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Jenny Gilruth MSP**  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrews House | Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
Mob: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] | Email: CabSecES2024@gov.scot

[Redacted – information not in scope]

**Enclosure 01.1 – 28 November 16:53 - Attachment - *h-history-review-2024***

[Redacted s25(1)]

[Higher History Review 2024](#)

[https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/h-history-review-2024.pdf](https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/h-history-review-2024.pdf)

**Enclosure 02 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

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

**Sent:** 02 December 2024 17:39

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks

<Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Laura Murdoch <Laura.Murdoch2@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird

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

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

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

Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

**Subject:** BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

PS/Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

cc. as above

**BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW**

Please see attached briefing for the Cabinet Secretary's appearance at the Education, Children and Young People (ECYP) Committee on Wednesday 4 December.

We will be engaging further with SQA tomorrow in advance of the pre-meet on Wednesday, [Redacted s30(b)(i)]

[Redacted – information not in scope]

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

Best regards

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)], Head of National Qualifications Team, Education Reform Directorate, Scottish Government, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ



**Enclosure 02.1 – Attachment – 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING - Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 - Wednesday 4 December 2024 - 1230-1330 - Cabinet Secretary briefing**

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS  
BRIEFING FOR EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW 2024**

**What**

Appearance at the Education, Children and Young People Committee to provide evidence on the SQA Higher History Review 2024

**When**

Wednesday 4 December 2024, 12:30-13:30

**Where**

Scottish Parliament, TG.40-CR1 The Burns Room

**Who**

Education, Children & Young People Committee

Fiona Robertson, Chief Examiner, SQA will also be attending to give evidence.

**Why**

To provide evidence on SQA's Higher History review.

**Key Messages**

- The Scottish Government has accepted the findings of the Higher History review published by the SQA.
- Richard Harry, Executive Director of Qualifications and Assessment at Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC), independently peer reviewed the SQA's report into the marking of Higher History this year and agreed that its conclusions and recommendations are supported by evidence.

**Speech details**

Ministerial opening remarks of 2 minutes (see Annex A) and Q&A

**Official support**

Clare Hicks, Director for Education Reform

**Media Handling**

N/A (Officials and Comms will monitor for any external media activity on the day)

**Briefing contents**

Annex A: Opening remarks

Annex B: Key Lines on Higher History Review

[Redacted – information not in scope]

[Redacted – information not in scope]

Annex E: Timeline of Exchanges on Higher History

Annex F: Political reaction to SQA Higher History Review Report

Annex G: ECYP Committee Members (including any commentary)

Annex H: Recent PQs on Higher History from Pam Duncan Glancy

Annex I: Principal Assessor Opinion Piece  
[Redacted – information not in scope]

**Opening remarks**

**To note - the Committee has invited the Cabinet Secretary and Fiona Robertson to give opening remarks of 5 mins combined in relation to the Higher History review.**

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

**ANNEX B**

## ANNEX C

[Redacted – information not in scope]

## ANNEX D

### OTHER POTENTIAL SENSITIVITIES

[Redacted – information not in scope]

## ANNEX E

### Timeline of Exchanges on Higher History

<b>6 Aug</b>	Publication of SQA Results showing pass rate for Higher History in 2024 fell by 13 pp compared to 2023 and 7.1 pp compared to 2019. This was in comparison to the overall Higher pass rate which decreased by 2.2 pp compared to 2023 but increased by 0.1 pp compared to 2019.
<b>w/c 12 Aug</b>	TES report just two-thirds of students attained A-C pass for Higher History (65.7% in 2023/ compared to 78.7% in 2022/2023), and first Ministerial correspondence received raising concerns around results.
<b>20/21 Aug</b>	First media coverage [Herald] raising concerns around 'unfair' marking of Higher History. [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>22 Aug</b>	SQA issued a statement setting out that the marking instructions and approach for Higher History in 2024 were consistent with those in 2023. [SQA responds to recent reports on the Higher History assessments]
<b>23 Aug</b>	SQA statement shared with Cabinet Secretary.
<b>27 Aug</b>	first PQs received seeking input on response to concerns being raised around Higher History marking [Pam Duncan Glancy].
<b>6 Sep</b>	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>11 Sep</b>	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>18 Sep</b>	[Redacted s30(b)(i)] SQA confirmed internal review underway.
<b>25 Sep</b>	Fiona Robertson appeared at Committee to give evidence on Education (Scotland) Bill. Issue of Higher History raised by Pam Duncan Glancy.
<b>7 Oct</b>	Cabinet Secretary met with Chief Examiner and Chair of SQA [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>10 Oct</b>	SQA issued lines to a Herald media query confirming that the review would be subjected to independent external review.
<b>11 Oct</b>	Cabinet Secretary sought an update on when review would conclude.
<b>29 Oct</b>	Cabinet Secretary met with Chief Examiner and Chair of SQA [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>30 Oct</b>	[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

<b>31 Oct</b>	Draft report and summary of findings shared with Cabinet Secretary, [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>1 Nov</b>	Draft Executive Summary and SQA media release shared with the Cabinet Secretary. [SQA clearing through Board via correspondence]
<b>4 Nov</b>	Updated SQA media release shared with the Cabinet Secretary.
<b>6 Nov</b>	SQA published Higher History Review findings. Final SQA media release and Key Messages shared with the Cabinet Secretary.
<b>7 Nov</b>	FMQ from Pam Duncan Glancy [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>13 Nov</b>	Herald front page reported WJEC declined to publicly support SQA's methodology and accused FM of misleading Parliament in stating that report was 'peer reviewed' by WJEC. Labour demanding parliamentary statement.
<b>28 Nov</b>	SATH issued survey of their members via their closed Facebook page (with Herald asking teachers to share their responses with them)
<b>29/30 Nov</b>	Herald articles stating SQA and Education Secretary being 'hailed in front of Committee' and [Redacted s30(b)(i)]
<b>?</b>	SQA Principal assessor article published setting out view to counter criticisms being published [Redacted s30(b)(i)]

## **Political reaction to SQA Higher History Review Report**

### **SNP MSP Fergus Ewing:**

- Given the angry and sceptical reaction from the teachers themselves, this report seems to be more of an exercise in self-justification by the SQA than an honest attempt to answer legitimate and serious questions, from children teachers and parents.
- Some children may not get the place in a university courses they sought, as a result of poorer than expected history performance. Surely that's a serious matter? But not one that seems to concern the SQA.
- If the marks of children were as SQA state so much lower last year, then why was that? Nowhere in the SQA report can I see any explanation offered by them.
- In Scotland the quango is now in charge, and rarely if ever called to book. Their homework always remains unmarked, and errors uncorrected by the red ink of the Ministerial pen.

### **Scottish Labour Education spokesperson Pam Duncan-Glancy:**

- Once again the SQA has shown how disconnected it is from what is happening in our schools.
- After marking its own homework, the SQA has decided to try and blame pupils and teachers for what went wrong here.
- The SNP must take responsibility for the chaos surrounding the SQA and step in to get answers on what happened with this history paper.
- This is a clear reminder that a rebranding exercise is not enough to fix the systemic issues in our education system – the SNP must deliver the change needed before another generation of school children are let down.

**Scottish Conservatives Education spokesperson Miles Briggs** quoted as calling the report by the SQA an "apparent whitewash" that won't reassure pupils, parents or teachers.

### **In relation to the 'failure' of SQA to publish all course reports by end October:**


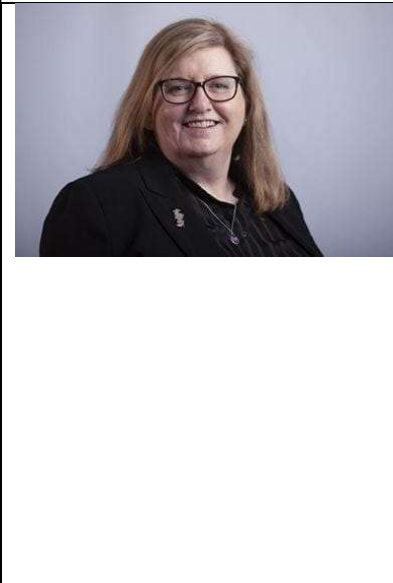
**Scottish Conservatives education spokesperson Miles Briggs** said: "The delays, confusion and lack of accountability show that the SQA is unfit for purpose – so it's also a damning indictment of the SNP's unforgivable delay in delivering reform.

**The Scottish Liberal Democrats' education spokesperson, Willie Rennie**, said: "If the SQA wants to regain the trust of teachers, pupils and presents it should be open and transparent about this important matter. With missing course reports and a missed deadline something is clearly going wrong. They should be upfront about that so people can understand."



**Scottish Labour Education spokesperson Pam Duncan-Glancy** said: "People in Scotland should be able to expect at the very least, competency and transparency from public bodies, but under the SNP secrecy and incompetence have become the norm. Teachers, pupils and parents have been failed by the SNP's mismanagement of Scottish education for too long – we need change."

## ECYP Committee Members (including any commentary)

## Current Members

	<p><b>Douglas Ross</b>  <b>Convener: from 30 October 2024</b>  <b>Member: from 10 October 2024</b>  <b>Party: Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party</b>  <b>MSP for: Highlands and Islands</b></p> <p>In Herald article of 30 Nov stating that SQA and Education Secretary being 'hailed before Committee', Mr Ross, quoted as saying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many concerns have been raised about this year's Higher History exam and questions remain despite the review undertaken by the SQA.</li> <li>• Committee members are determined to get the answers students and teachers deserve on this issue.</li> <li>• The concerns highlighted in the summer continue to be raised, and some of the teachers who have spoken with The Herald are clear that further answers are needed on this issue.</li> <li>• That is why the Education, Children and Young People's Committee have called the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, along with the Chief Executive of the SQA, to appear before members next week so we can comprehensively question them on this important subject.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Jackie Dunbar</b>  <b>Deputy Convener: from 13 November 2024</b>  <b>Member: from 06 November 2024</b>  <b>Party: Scottish National Party</b>  <b>MSP for: Aberdeen Donside</b></p> <p>Wrote on 12 Sep ([Redacted s38(1)(b)]) on behalf of History teacher constituent raising concerns about the marking of Higher History, and lack of comment by SATH. <b>Response not yet issued.</b></p> <p>Wrote on 16 Sep ([Redacted s38(1)(b)]) on behalf of constituent parent raising concerns about the marking of Higher History. Response issued 20 Nov.</p>



	<p><b>George Adam</b>  <b>Member: from 18 June 2024</b>  <b>Party: Scottish National Party</b>  <b>MSP for: Paisley</b></p>
	<p><b>Miles Briggs</b>  <b>Member: from 10 October 2024</b>  <b>Party: Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party</b>  <b>MSP for: Lothian</b></p> <p>Wrote on 18 Sep ([Redacted s38(1)(b)]) on behalf of constituent parent raising concerns about the marking of Higher History. Response issued 11 Nov.</p> <p>As Conservative Education spokesperson, he was Miles Briggs quoted as calling the Higher History report by the SQA an "apparent whitewash" that won't reassure pupils, parents or teachers.</p> <p>In relation to the 'failure' of SQA to publish all course reports by end October he said: "The delays, confusion and lack of accountability show that the SQA is unfit for purpose – so it's also a damning indictment of the SNP's unforgivable delay in delivering reform.</p> <p>In Herald article of 29 Nov stating "SQA admits fully independent review of exam marking was never an option", he said:  "The shambolic response from the SQA and its subsequent lack of transparency are totally unacceptable.  "It shows contempt for pupils, parents and schools, but it also indicates that the so-called reform over which the SNP dithered for years has been no more than a shallow rebranding exercise.  "There's been little or no change in its powers or the people in charge. Ministers must finally makes sure that Scotland's supervising body on exams does not continue to mark its own homework, brush aside its mistakes and dismiss calls for proper accountability</p>



**Pam Duncan-Glancy**  
**Member: from 25 April 2023**  
**Party: Scottish Labour**  
**MSP for: Glasgow**

A number of PQs have been raised by Ms Duncan Glancy. These are set out at Annex G.

Regarding the Higher History Review report, as Scottish Labour Education spokesperson, Pam Duncan-Glancy said:

- Once again the SQA has shown how disconnected it is from what is happening in our schools.
- After marking its own homework, the SQA has decided to try and blame pupils and teachers for what went wrong here.
- The SNP must take responsibility for the chaos surrounding the SQA and step in to get answers on what happened with this history paper.
- This is a clear reminder that a rebranding exercise is not enough to fix the systemic issues in our education system – the SNP must deliver the change needed before another generation of school children are let down.

In relation to the ‘failure’ of SQA to publish all course reports by end October she said: “People in Scotland should be able to expect at the very least, competency and transparency from public bodies, but under the SNP secrecy and incompetence have become the norm. Teachers, pupils and parents have been failed by the SNP’s mismanagement of Scottish education for too long – we need change.”

In Herald article of 29 Nov stating “SQA admits fully independent review of exam marking was never an option”, she said:

“It speaks volumes about the SQA’s approach that no-one even thought about ensuring this review was truly independent.

“The SNP’s decision to fully back this report in public is looking more and more dubious by the day – they must listen to the feedback they get from teachers and start holding the SQA to account.

“It’s clear the SNP’s plans to rebrand the SQA instead of genuinely reforming it aren’t good enough, and if they’d acted long ago as they were

	<p>told to, they might have avoided this mess. We need a genuine change in direction to deliver an education system pupils and teachers alike can have faith in.”</p>
	<p><b>Ross Greer</b>  <b>Member: from 17 June 2021</b>  <b>Party: Scottish Green Party</b>  <b>MSP for: West Scotland</b></p>
	<p><b>Bill Kidd</b>  <b>Member: from 18 April 2023</b>  <b>Party: Scottish National Party</b>  <b>MSP for: Glasgow Anniesland</b></p>
	<p><b>John Mason</b>  <b>Member: from 18 June 2024</b>  <b>Party: Independent</b>  <b>MSP for: Glasgow Shettleston</b></p>
	<p><b>Willie Rennie</b>  <b>Member: from 31 August 2021</b>  <b>Party: Scottish Liberal Democrats</b>  <b>MSP for: North East Fife</b></p> <p>Wrote on 25 Oct ([Redacted s38(1)(b)]) on behalf of History teacher constituent raising concerns about the marking of Higher History, and calling for a re-mark. Response issued 12 Nov.</p> <p>In relation to the ‘failure’ of SQA to publish all course reports by end October, as Scottish Liberal Democrats' education spokesperson, Willie Rennie said: “If the SQA wants to regain the trust of teachers, pupils and presents it should be open and transparent about this important matter. With missing course reports and a missed deadline something is clearly going wrong. They should be upfront about that so people can understand.”</p>



**Evelyn Tweed**

**Deputy Convener: from 19 June 2024 to 12  
November 2024**

**Member: from 18 June 2024**

**Party: Scottish National Party**

**MSP for: Stirling**

## Current Substitute Members

	<p><b>Alex Cole-Hamilton</b> Substitute Member: from 06 October 2021 Party: Scottish Liberal Democrats MSP for: Edinburgh Western</p>
	<p><b>Clare Haughey</b> Substitute Member: from 20 November 2024 Party: Scottish National Party MSP for: Rutherglen</p>
	<p><b>Gillian Mackay</b> Substitute Member: from 29 November 2023 Party: Scottish Green Party MSP for: Central Scotland</p>
	<p><b>Roz McCall</b> Substitute Member: from 29 June 2023 Party: Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party MSP for: Mid Scotland and Fife</p>
	<p><b>Martin Whitfield</b> Substitute Member: from 22 September 2021 Party: Scottish Labour MSP for: South Scotland</p>

**Recent PQs on Higher History from Pam Duncan Glancy**

- S6W-31488: To ask Scottish Government whether it will provide further details of the methodology used to provide the "independent, external scrutiny and challenge of the review" of the marking of Higher History in 2024, including the conclusions and wider reflections, as set out in the SQA's *Higher History Review 2024* report, and whether the individual responsible for the review spoke to any teachers who were not employed by the SQA as markers.
- S6W-31492: To ask the Scottish Government whether it instructed the SQA to carry out a review of the marking of Higher History in 2024, and, if so, whether it will provide details of its instructions.
- S6W-31493: To ask the Scottish Government whether it (a) asked the SQA to undertake an independent review of the marking of Higher History in 2024 and (b) set the parameters for the independence of that review.
- S6W-30830: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-29283 by Jenny Gilruth on 24 September 2024, when it will publish the review of the 2024 Higher History paper.
- S6W-31160: To ask the Scottish Government whether the executive director of qualifications and assessment at the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) was involved in the review of Higher History in 2024.
- S6W-31161: To ask the Scottish Government when it received the report on the review of Higher History from the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).
- S6W-29283: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported concerns from teachers about the marking procedures for exams in 2024.
- S6W-29284: To ask the Scottish Government whether it has confidence in the Scottish Qualifications Authority marking system used in 2024.
- S6W-29303: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Scottish Qualifications Authority, in light of reported concerns regarding the approach taken to marking the 2024 Higher History paper.

**PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR OPINION PIECE**

[Redacted s25(1)]

[SQA Higher history: a view from the principal assessor and senior team leader | Tes](#)

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/analysis/secondary/higher-history-view-principal-assessor-and-senior-team-leader>

[Redacted – information not in scope]



**Enclosure 02.2 – Attachment – 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland) Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf**

[Redacted s25(1)]

[Education \(Scotland\) Bill - Stage 1 Report | Scottish Parliament](#)

<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot/Committees/Report/ECYP/2024/12/3/0162b5b0-cbbf-4c49-aae1-a332fa0252c7#c456a314-3a9c-4244-93e9-ee652f146232.dita>

**Enclosure 03 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 03.1 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – BRIEFING –  
Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 –  
Wednesday 4 December 2024 12:30 – 1:30 – Cabinet Secretary Briefing**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02.1**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 03.2 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland)  
Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02.2**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 04 – Email - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 04.1 – Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 - BRIEFING –  
Committee Evidence Session on SQA higher History Review 2024 –  
Wednesday 4 December 2024 12:30 – 1:30 – Cabinet Secretary Briefing**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02.1**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 04.2 - Attachment - 02 December 2024 17:39 – Education (Scotland)  
Bill – Stage 1 Report.pdf**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 02.2**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 05 – Email – 03 December 2024 15:08 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 06**

[Duplicate]



**Enclosure 05.1 – Attachment – 03 December 2024 2024 15:08 - ECYP  
Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 06.1**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 06 – Email – 03 December 2024 16:01 - RE: BRIEFING FOR  
COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW -  
WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**From:** Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 03 December 2024 16:01

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>;  
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Laura Murdoch  
<Laura.Murdoch2@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; [Redacted  
s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education  
& Skills CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]  
@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA  
HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES  
EMBARGOED INFORMATION

**Importance:** High

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

[Redacted – information not in scope]

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

Erin – may wish to reflect on this further and we're of course happy to discuss on  
17.30 call.

Clare

Clare Hicks

Director for Education Reform

Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

You can contact me on: 07[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted – information not in scope]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for  
Education & Skills 2024

Sent: 03 December 2024 15:08

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024  
<CabSecES2024@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks

<Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Laura Murdoch <Laura.Murdoch2@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird

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

s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills

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

Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA  
HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES  
EMBARGOED INFORMATION

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Ms Gilruth has amended her opening statement. Copy attached.

Grateful for any thoughts officials and spads may have.

Thanks

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] **Deputy Private Secretary | Cabinet Secretary for Education  
and Skills**

07[Redacted s38(1)(b)] St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted – information not in scope]

**Duplication of email chain available at Enclosure 02**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 06.1 – Attachment - 03 December 2024 03 December 2024 16:01 –  
ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher History \_ CH**

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

**Enclosure 06.2 comments on document – Attachment - 03 December 2024 03  
December 2024 16:01 – ECYP Committee – Opening Statement – Higher  
History \_ CH**

Laura Murdoch comment:

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

**Enclosure 07 – Email - 03 December 2024 16:01- RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 06**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 07.1 - Attachment - 03 December 2024 16:01 - ECYP Committee –  
Opening Statement – Higher History \_ CH**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 06.1**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 08 – Email - 03 December 2024 16:36 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**From:** Laura Murdoch <Laura.Murdoch2@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 03 December 2024 16:36

**To:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>

**Cc:** DG Education & Justice <dgej@gov.scot>; Clare Hicks <Clare.Hicks@gov.scot>; Lisa Bird <Lisa.Bird@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Communications Education & Skills <CommunicationsEducationandSkills@gov.scot> [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

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

Please find attached an article which the SQA advise will be published by TES later today. This is a first person piece written by the Higher History Principal Assessor. The Cab Sec will want to be aware ahead of the Committee session tomorrow.

Many thanks

Laura

**The rest of this email is a duplicate of information – available at Enclosure 02 [Duplicate]**



**Enclosure 08.1 – Attachment - 03 December 2024 16:36 – HH PA article**

[Redacted s25(1)]

[SQA Higher history: a view from the principal assessor and senior team leader | Tes](#)

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/analysis/secondary/higher-history-view-principal-assessor-and-senior-team-leader>

**Enclosure 09 – Email – 03 December 2024 16:36 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 08**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 09.1 – Attachment – 03 December 2024 16:36 – HH PA article**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 08.1**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 10.0 – Email – 03 December 2024 17:47 - RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION**

From: Jenny Gilruth <Jenny.Gilruth@gov.scot>  
Sent: 03 December 2024 17:47  
To: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

Thanks

From: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>  
Sent: 03 December 2024 17:44  
To: Jenny Gilruth <Jenny.Gilruth@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

Hello,  
Some suggestions from me below.

E

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

From: Jenny Gilruth <Jenny.Gilruth@gov.scot>  
Sent: 03 December 2024 14:59  
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>  
Cc: Erin Mckee <Erin.Mckee@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

[Redacted s30(b)(i)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024  
Sent: 02 December 2024 17:41  
To: Jenny Gilruth <Jenny.Gilruth@gov.scot>  
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>  
Subject: FW: BRIEFING FOR COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON SQA HIGHER HISTORY REVIEW - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER - INCLUDES EMBARGOED INFORMATION

Draft briefing and opening statement for Committee on Wednesday.

**[Redacted s38(1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary | Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills**

**07**[Redacted s38(1)(b)] St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[Redacted – information not in scope]

**The rest of this email chain is duplicate information – available at Enclosure 02**

[Duplicate]

**Enclosure 11.0 – Email - 03 December 2024 18:07 – Additional briefing committee appearance**

[Redacted – information not in scope]

**Enclosure 12.0 – Email – 03 December 2024 18:09 - Additional briefing committee appearance**

**Duplicate of Enclosure 11.0**

[Duplicate]