

Our ref: MM/NQ/June 09

25 June 2009

To: Directors of Education  
SQA Co-ordinators  
Biology Assessment Panel Members  
Business Development Managers

**For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of National Qualifications in Biology**

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
Note — update/information only

Contact: Margot McKerrell  
Direct line: 0845 213 5509  
E-mail: [margot.mckerrell@sqa.org.uk](mailto:margot.mckerrell@sqa.org.uk)

Dear Colleague,

**National Qualifications update — Advanced Higher Biology Investigation**

This letter provides centres with information on changes to some of the support materials for Advanced Higher Biology Investigations.

Centres are advised that the Advanced Higher Biology Candidate Investigation Guidance has been refreshed and is available to download from SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)). The document has been available on the website since the 2008/09 teaching session.

The guidance to candidates remains almost the same, but it has been rewritten in a more accessible way for candidates. One change to the document is that it now contains further guidance on the types of references which must be included in the report, and how to reference from internet sites. Centres are advised that, **as from session 2009/10**, this change to references will be incorporated into the marking instructions for the Investigation Report.

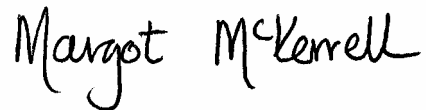
Also, information which was originally in the Candidate Guidance document, but which was more applicable to teachers and lecturers, has been removed and placed in a separate Advanced Higher Biology Teacher/Lecturer Investigation Guidance document which is also available to download from SQA's website.

Centres are advised to share the Advanced Higher Biology Candidate Investigation Guidance document with their candidates and to encourage its use throughout the investigation process.

Comments and suggestions on these refreshed documents are welcomed from centres.

I can be contacted through the e-mail address and the direct phone number noted above. The Qualifications Officer is Paula Greenwood and she can be contacted by e-mail (**Paula.Greenwood@sqa.org.uk**) or by telephone (0845 213 5512).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margot McKerrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Margot McKerrell  
Qualifications Manager