



Attainment Statistics (August) 2020 Revised – notes

On 31 August 2020, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) published Attainment Statistics (August) 2020 *Revised*.

This publication replaces [Attainment Statistics \(August\) 2020](#), previously published on 4 August 2020. This was based on the implementation of an Alternative Certification Model (ACM), to maintain standards, commissioned from SQA by the Deputy First Minister for 2020 graded National Qualifications.

Following the publication of [Attainment Statistics \(August\) 2020](#), the Deputy First Minister issued a [Ministerial Direction](#) on 11 August 2020, directing SQA to change the approach to 2020 certification and instead award results based solely on the estimates provided by centres. The results of those learners who were awarded a higher grade during the ACM moderation process were to be retained.

The approaches adopted in these statistics for the various qualifications are summarised below.

- **National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher**

Attainment statistics for 2020 are now based solely on the estimates provided by centres. The results of those learners who were awarded a higher grade during the original ACM process have been maintained. The information SQA provided to centres on producing estimates is available on the [SQA website](#).

The details of the 2020 ACM methodology are provided in the *National Qualifications 2020 Awarding – Methodology Report* available on [SQA's statistics page](#).

- **National 2, National 3, and National 4 courses, Scottish Baccalaureate Interdisciplinary Project unit and free-standing units at SCQF Levels 5, 6 and 7**

Centres provided unit results based on either existing evidence from assessments that had already been completed, and/or using their professional judgement of other learner evidence, including their knowledge of their learners, their progress and achievements to date. See [Approach to quality assurance and certification for National 2, National 3 and National 4 courses](#) for further details.

- **National Certificates, National Progression Awards, Skills for Work courses, and Awards**

The approaches for these courses have been aligned, so all results were based on a holistic assessment decision-making process. See [SQA update on arrangements for quality assurance and the certification of National Certifications, National Progression Awards, Skills for Work courses and Awards](#) for further details.

This year, the absence of external assessment information and the Ministerial direction to award estimated grades, have led to a different pattern of attainment than we would see in a normal year. The revised results for graded courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher should not be compared to those in previous years.