SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

RESULTS SERVICES REPORT 2018

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Key points

This release provides statistical information on the number of requests made for Results Services[1] following the 2018 National Qualification examinations[2]. It also provides data on the number of grade changes that resulted from such requests. A detailed breakdown of Results Services requests at subject level is provided in 'Results Services Report — Statistical Tables 2018'.

The key findings of the release are as follows:

- There were a total of 13,543 requests for either a clerical check or a marking review of the external assessment material.
- 2.7% of entries requested a Results Services review:
  - 2.6% of entries requested the marking review service.
  - 0.1% of entries requested the priority marking review service.
  - Less than 0.05% of the entries requested the clerical check service.
- 14.5% of the 13,543 requests resulted in a grade change.
- The majority of the requests were for a marking review (96.5% of all requests). A smaller number of requests went through the priority marking review (3.1%) and/or the clerical check (0.4%).

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[1] This includes clerical check, marking review and priority marking review services.
[2] Results Services procedures are only available for subjects at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher.

Clerical checks

The clerical check service involves SQA checking the externally assessed materials to make sure every question has been marked and the total number of marks awarded for each paper is correctly added up and recorded.

Figure 1: Clerical check summary statistics

Clerical Checks	Total Entries	Requests	Requests as a percentage of entries	Upgrades	Downgrades	No Change	Changes as a percentage of entries	Changes as a percentage of requests
National 5	281,785	14	<0.05%	0	0	14	0.0%	0.0%
Higher	191,951	39	<0.05%	1	0	38	<0.05%	2.6%
Advanced Higher	24,331	4	<0.05%	0	0	4	0.0%	0.0%
Overall	498,067	57	<0.05%	1	0	56	<0.05%	1.8%

- The total number of requests for clerical checks was 57, representing less than 0.05% of the total entries.
- The majority of requests for clerical checks were at SCQF levels 5 and 6 (National 5 and Higher level), accounting for 93.0% of all clerical check requests.
- One change to grade resulted from clerical checks (1.8% of requests resulted in a grade change).

Priority marking review

The priority marking review service involves a review by the principal assessor or senior examiners (not the original marker) to make sure the authorised mark scheme has been applied appropriately to the agreed national standard. A full clerical check is also applied. Centres can request this priority service if the candidate's place in further or higher education depends upon the outcome of the review about results.

Figure 2: Priority marking review summary statistics

Priority marking review	Total entries	Requests	Requests as a percentage of entries	Upgrades	Downgrades	No change	Changes as a percentage of entries	Changes as a percentage of requests
National 5	281,785	18	<0.05%	0	0	18	0.0%	0.0%
Higher	191,951	263	0.1%	59	0	204	<0.05%	22.4%
Advanced Higher	24,331	140	0.6%	33	0	107	0.1%	23.6%
Overall	498,067	421	0.1%	92	0	329	<0.05%	21.9%

- The total number of requests for a priority marking review was 421, representing 0.1% of the total entries.
- The majority of requests for a priority marking review were at SCQF level 6 (Higher level), accounting for 62.5% of all priority marking review requests.
- 92 changes to grade resulted from priority marking reviews (21.9% of requests resulted in a grade change).

Marking review

The marking review service involves a review by the principal assessor or senior examiners (not the original marker) to make sure the authorised mark scheme has been applied appropriately to the agreed national standard. A full clerical check is also applied.

Figure 3: Marking review summary statistics

Marking review	Total entries	Requests	Requests as a percentage of entries	Upgrades	Downgrades	No change	Changes as a percentage of entries	Changes as a percentage of requests
National 5	281,785	4,704	1.7%	644	2	4,058	0.2%	13.7%
Higher	191,951	7,677	4.0%	1,099	5	6,573	0.6%	14.4%
Advanced Higher	24,331	684	2.8%	115	0	569	0.5%	16.8%
Overall	498,067	13,065	2.6%	1,858	7	11,200	0.4%	14.3%

- The total number of requests for a marking review was 13,065, representing 2.6% of the total entries.
- The majority of requests for a marking review were at SCQF level 6 (Higher level), accounting for 58.8% of all marking review requests.
- 1,865 changes to grade resulted from the marking reviews, (14.3% of requests resulted in a grade change).

Further notes

Definition of entries

The 'entries' recorded in data tables for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are defined as *the number of entries as reported in the Attainment Statistics (August) publication*[3]. These are not directly comparable with the 2013-14 and 2014-15 statistics, as a number of qualifications were not eligible for Post-results Services.

The original statistical summaries, and tables, published in 2013-14 and 2014-15 remain available, unchanged, on the SQA website.

Requests as a percentage of entries

A total 'requests as a percentage of entries' has been calculated within the key points. Providing an overall figure is complicated by the following factor:

- A centre can request both a clerical check and a marking review for a single candidate in a given qualification at a given level and therefore will appear in two of the Results Services tables for the same qualification/level. While this is appropriate when reporting at individual service level, it does mean that both requests would be counted when reporting across all services.

While the above factor is acknowledged, for the purposes of this report the total requests as a percentage of entries has been defined as the total number of requests received divided by the number of entries across all levels.

The figure should be used as a guide to the relative scale of the requests received and allow comparison over time in future years when trend information is available.

Notation

Percentages are rounded to one decimal place. In cases where the rounded percentage would be displayed as 0.0%, to one decimal place, '<0.05%' has been used in the summary tables.

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[3] Fashion and Textile Technology, Hospitality: Practical Cake Craft, Hospitality: Practical Cookery, Practical Electronics, Practical Metalworking and Practical Woodworking were exempt from PRS prior to 2017-18.