



Appeals Summary 2022

Thursday 3 November 2022

Contents

1	Headlines	1
2	Background	2
3	Terms used and rounding	3
4	Appeal requests by qualification level	4
5	Appeal outcomes by qualification level	5

1. Headlines

- ◆ 58,035 (11.0%) of the 526,610 certificated grades for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher were appealed in 2022.
- ◆ 1,420 appeal requests (2.4%) were priority appeal requests, where the learner required the outcome of an appeal for immediate progression to university, college, training or employment.
- ◆ 17,300 appeal requests (29.8%) resulted in an upgrade and fewer than five (less than 0.05%) resulted in a downgrade. The remainder of requests resulted in no change.

2. Background

The purpose of Appeals 2022 was to provide learners and centres with the opportunity to review an SQA National Course grade where a learner had not achieved the grade estimated by their centre for the externally-assessed components of their course. Learners were awarded the higher of two grades, based on either:

- ◆ a clerical check of their SQA assessments — exam script and/or coursework, or
- ◆ a review by SQA senior appointees — experienced markers who are also teachers and lecturers — of the assessment evidence submitted by their centre, also taking into account their performance in any required coursework.

In addition to grades going up or staying the same, there was the possibility that a grade could go down. This would have only been in the event of a clerical check identifying an error that reduced the original certificated grade, and the centre evidence not supporting the original certificated grade.

To be eligible for the Appeals 2022 service for a subject/level, learners had to meet the following criteria:

- ◆ The learner's estimate was higher than their certificated grade — for example, the learner's exam result was a grade C, but their estimate was a grade B.
- ◆ The learner's centre had submitted an estimate to SQA for that subject and level. Estimated bands of zero or blank were not eligible.
- ◆ The learner had taken and/or submitted all coursework and formal assessments, including exams.
- ◆ At least one component of the course assessment had been marked by SQA. Courses that were wholly internally assessed were not eligible for appeals — National 5 Practical Electronics, National 5 Practical Metalworking and National 5 Practical Woodworking courses.

Learners who went through the Examination Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (EECCS) were excluded from the Appeals 2022 service for the same qualification. This is because the EECCS included a review, by SQA senior appointees, of the assessment evidence submitted by their centre, and also took into account the learner's performance in any required coursework.

3. Terms used and rounding

- ◆ 'Upgrade' refers to an appeal request that resulted in a learner receiving a higher grade.
- ◆ 'Downgrade' refers to an appeal request that resulted in a learner receiving a lower grade.
- ◆ 'No Change' refers to an appeal request that did not result in a change to the grade awarded to the learner.
- ◆ 'Appeal rate' refers to the number of appeals as a proportion of entries.
- ◆ 'Upgrade/Downgrade/No Change rate' refers to the respective outcomes as a proportion of appeal requests.
- ◆ 'Entries' refers to the number of entries reported in Provisional Attainment Statistics - August 2022, published on 9 August 2022.
- ◆ All figures are rounded to the nearest five. Totals are also rounded, and the sum of rounded figures may differ from the total reported. Figures between one and four inclusive have been suppressed to protect against the risk of disclosure of personal information. Suppressed figures are marked up with the shorthand [c].
- ◆ Percentages are calculated using figures prior to rounding. Percentages with a value greater than zero and less than 0.05% are marked up with <0.05%.

4. Appeal requests by qualification level

There were 27,385 appeal requests received for National 5 (8.8% of the 310,170 entries), 26,260 for Higher (14.0% of the 188,220 entries) and 4,395 for Advanced Higher (15.6% of the 28,220 entries).

Proportion of entries resulting in an appeal request was highest for Advanced Higher and lowest for National 5

Number of appeal requests as a proportion of entries by level, Scotland, 2022

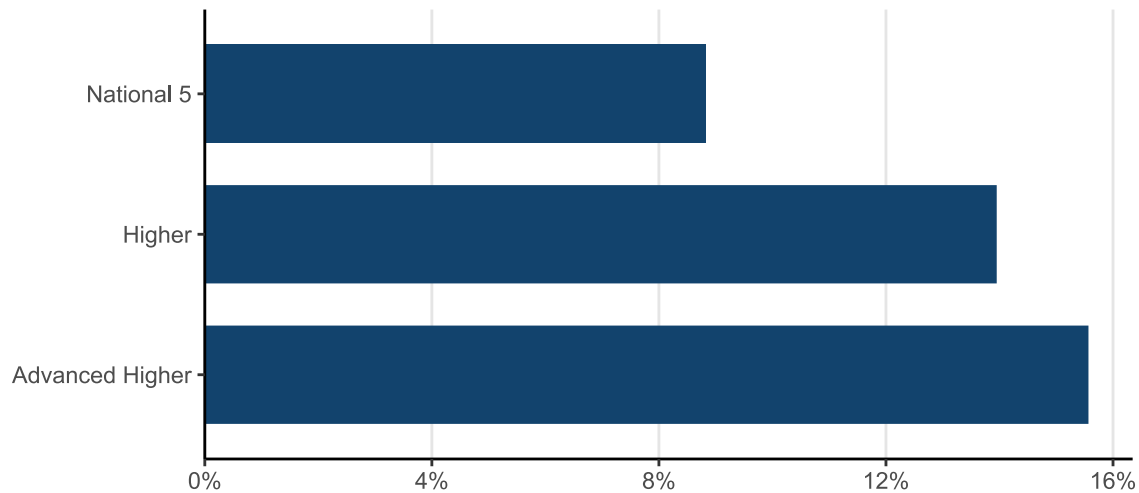


Table 1: Appeal requests by qualification level, 2022

Level	Entries	Appeals	Appeal rate
National 5	310,170	27,385	8.8%
Higher	188,220	26,260	14.0%
Advanced Higher	28,220	4,395	15.6%

5. Appeal outcomes by qualification level

- ◆ For National 5, 7,545 (27.5%) of the 27,385 appeal requests resulted in an upgrade, zero (0.0%) resulted in a downgrade and 19,840 (72.5%) resulted in no change.
- ◆ For Higher, 8,680 (33.1%) of the 26,260 appeal requests resulted in an upgrade, fewer than five (less than 0.05%) resulted in a downgrade and 17,580 (66.9%) resulted in no change.
- ◆ For Advanced Higher, 1,075 (24.5%) of the 4,395 appeal requests resulted in an upgrade, zero (0.0%) resulted in a downgrade and 3,315 (75.5%) resulted in no change.

At qualification level, the proportion of appeal requests resulting in an upgrade was highest for Higher and lowest for Advanced Higher

Appeal outcome numbers as a proportion of appeal requests by level, Scotland, 2022

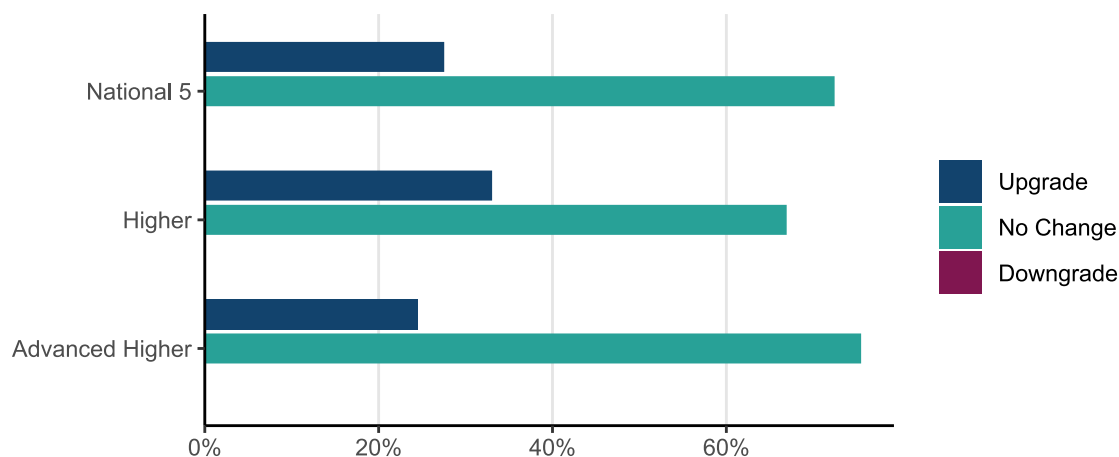


Table 2: Appeal outcomes by qualification level, 2022

Level	Appeals	Upgrade number	Upgrade rate	Downgrade number	Downgrade rate	No Change number	No Change rate
National 5	27,385	7,545	27.5%	0	0.0%	19,840	72.5%
Higher	26,260	8,680	33.1%	[c]	<0.05%	17,580	66.9%
Advanced Higher	4,395	1,075	24.5%	0	0.0%	3,315	75.5%