

From: [Gill Stewart](#)
To: [Ian Stockford](#)
Subject: RE: Newsdirect: SQA Exam Results Ministerial Statement
Date: 12 August 2020 04:53:00
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Ian
Surviving
Parliament education committee today
Hope all goes as well as can for your results tomorrow and next week
Gill

From: Ian Stockford <ian.stockford@ofqual.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 August 2020 21:11
To: Gill Stewart <Gill.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Newsdirect: SQA Exam Results Ministerial Statement
Hi Gill – hope you're doing okay.
Ian

From: Gill Stewart <Gill.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 11 August 2020 16:34
To: Ian Stockford <ian.stockford@ofqual.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Newsdirect: SQA Exam Results Ministerial Statement
Ian
Thought you would be interested
Gill

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@newsdirect-uk.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@newsdirect-uk.com)> Redacted - section 38(1)(b)

Sent: 11 August 2020 15:56

Subject: Newsdirect: SQA Exam Results Ministerial Statement

Ministerial Statement: SQA Exam Results 2020 – Tuesday 11 August

John Swinney [apologised](#) to young people who had received results lower than they believed they were capable of. He said he understood the anguish of those who felt the process had been unfair. He noted the majority of estimates had not been adjusted, and there had been an increase in attainment at all levels, with the largest rise for pupils from the most deprived areas. On the publication of moderation methodology by the SQA, he argued the organisation had provided a significant amount of information and this was always published on results day. The Cabinet Secretary said he had been concerned that grade inflation through accepting original estimates would undermine the credibility of results. However, he said this had been outweighed by fears young people, particularly those from deprived areas, would lose faith in the education system. He said worries that relying on teacher judgements alone gave incomparable advantages to this cohort of pupils had to be balanced against the mental health implications of COVID-19, lack of schooling and limited social interaction. He argued this year had to be seen as unique and could not set an automatic precedent.

John Swinney said the SQA had undertaken the task set to ensure qualifications would be comparable to any other year and had no criticisms to make of their actions.

He announced all downgraded awards will be [withdrawn](#) and the SQA will reissue those awards based solely on teacher or lecturer awards. UCAS will be informed of new grades and learners will be sent new awards as soon as possible. Those whose grades were moderated upwards will not lose their awards. The Cabinet Secretary said provision would be made for enough places for university and college admissions.

The new pass rates stand at 88.9% for National 5, 89.2% for Higher and 93.1% for Advanced Higher. John Swinney said there was no longer a need for the appeal process as planned for this year, although it was still necessary in some circumstances.

The Cabinet Secretary also announced the OECD review into the curriculum for excellence will be extended to include recommendations on how to transform the approach to assessments. The SQA will begin a rapid consultation later this week on how to deliver qualifications in the

2020-21 academic year in case of coronavirus-related disruption. An independent review into the qualification awarding process this year will be undertaken by Mark Priestley of the University of Stirling, with initial recommendations due in five weeks.

The Q&A section of the Ministerial Statement is ongoing. A full summary will be sent following its conclusion.



Redacted - section 38(1)(b)



From: [Fiona Robertson](#)
To: [Sally Collier](#); [Justin Edwards](#); [Philip Blaker](#)
Cc: [Jean Blair](#)
Subject: Fwd: SQA's new appeals services
Date: 17 August 2020 17:00:01

Colleagues

We must catch up on events over the last few days.

I just wanted to draw your attention to appeals in this new world, because you will be thinking about appeals too - see below.

We are working on operational guidance, hopefully to issue tomorrow.

My best wishes to you at this challenging time.

Fiona

Just to confirm that in accordance with the Ministerial Direction of Tuesday 11 August 2020, SQA has developed and communicated a revised Appeals Process to centres.

The message is also on the website – link below:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/94840.html>

