

**FOI 156:**

*"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.*

*I'm looking for information related to recent discussions and correspondence (e-mails, letters, meeting notes or minutes, briefing papers, memos, etc) about attendance at the Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee to give evidence on the topic of Higher History SQA exams. I am looking for:*

- 1. All correspondence between Jenny Gilruth MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills) and Fiona Robertson (Chief Executive of the SQA) between [1 September 2024 – present].*
- 2. All correspondence involving Jenny Gilruth MSP, Fiona Robertson, or other officials in the Scottish Government or SQA about the scheduling or potential refusal of attendance at an additional meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Committee on this subject."*

Ref	Date/Time	Subject	Document	Notes
1	06 November 2024 15:49	Letter from Fiona Robertson	Letter from Fiona Robertson	Provided

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Fiona Robertson

Sent: 06 November 2024 15:49

To: Education, Children & Young People <ECYP.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Subject: Letter from Fiona Robertson

Committee clerk,

Please find attached a letter from Fiona Robertson for the Convenor and members of the Committee. Please can this letter be passed on to them.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 21 November 2024 09:27

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: RE: ECYPC - Urgent Request to Attend Committee

Dear Fiona

Thanks for coming back to me so quickly and letting me know [REDACTED]

Can you leave this with me in terms of an alternative input, please? I'll speak to the Convener about what might be most appropriate and I should be able to get back to you later today, or early tomorrow morning, at the latest.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 5:18 PM

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: RE: ECYPC - Urgent Request to Attend Committee

Hi [REDACTED]

I would of course be happy to attend the Committee to answer questions about Higher History, but [REDACTED] and I will not be available to attend. Would the Committee consider another date – or are there questions we can answer in correspondence?

Happy to speak if helpful.

Kind regards

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 20 November 2024 15:17

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: ECYPC - Urgent Request to Attend Committee

Dear Ms Robertson

The Committee this morning asked me to invite you to attend an urgent session at next week's Education, Children and Young People Committee's meeting, on Wednesday 27th November, regarding the Higher History Marking Review.

As there are a number of agenda items earlier in the meeting, so we would anticipate your session starting at approximately 11am and lasting for around 30 minutes. We would need you to be in the Parliament by 10.40am at the latest.

You are welcome to bring up to two additional witnesses with you. We will not be able to accommodate an opening statement, and so the session will move straight to questions.

I do appreciate that this is very short notice. However, I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance by close of play tomorrow, Thursday 21st November 2024, in order that we can include details in our committee papers for next week.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 22 November 2024 17:54

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: RE: ECYPC - Urgent Request to Attend Committee

Dear Fiona

Thanks for your patience in awaiting a response.

The Committee is due to discuss its future work programme at our meeting next week, so I will come back to you once that discussion has taken place to let you know how the Committee would like to proceed.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

***[Chain as Wednesday, November 20, 2024 5:18 PM above]***

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From: Fiona Robertson

Sent: 21 November 2024 09:30

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: ECYPC - Urgent Request to Attend Committee

As discussed. Will keep you posted.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

***[chain as previous set of emails]***

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From: Fiona Robertson

Sent: 22 November 2024 13:21

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: ECYP

Thanks [REDACTED]

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 November 2024 16:50

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: ECYP

For awareness, I understand the below response will issue to committee from Ms Gilruth's office later today.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email inviting the Cabinet Secretary to attend Committee next week regarding SQA's Higher History Review. I understand an invitation was also issued to the Chief Executive of the SQA who has said she is unable to attend.

The Cabinet Secretary would of course be willing to attend a session with Committee on this matter, but has noted it would be most appropriate for SQA to attend this session too, given the concerns raised by Members must be answered directly by the SQA, who have operational responsibility for the delivery of Scotland's exam diet. She has suggested coordinating diaries with the SQA and Committee to find a suitable date.

Meantime, as some Committee members were aware of prior to Wednesday's session the Cabinet Secretary had already offered to convene a roundtable with the SQA's Chief Executive and interested MSPs – you will be aware that this has been scheduled for next Thursday, 28th November. The Cabinet Secretary would be happy to extend this invitation to all Members of the Committee and has suggested this will provide a helpful opportunity for MSPs to raise concerns directly with the SQA about the recent Higher History review.

In the event there remain any outstanding questions, the Cabinet Secretary would be happy to attend a session alongside the SQA's Chief Executive.

Kind regards,

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

★★

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 27 November 2024 13:16

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: ECYP Committee: Invitation to Provide Evidence

Dear Fiona

The Education, Children and Young People Committee met this morning to discuss its work programme. The Committee would like to schedule an evidence session involving both you and the Cabinet Secretary on the Higher History marking review for either our meeting next week (4th December) or the following week (11th December).

If the session were to take place on 4th December, then we would anticipate it being at 12.30pm (approximately) for 30-40 minutes. Both you and the Cabinet Secretary would be sitting on the same panel.

If the session were to take place on 11th December, then the evidence session would be at the beginning of the meeting, most likely at 9am.

Due to the Friday holiday this week, we will be issuing our agenda and Committee papers for the meeting on 4th December tomorrow afternoon. I recognise this is extremely short notice, but if you were able to confirm attendance and your preferred date for the session as soon as possible, that would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 November 2024 15:11

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Higher History committee appearance

Apologies Fiona and Martin

Ms Gilruth's office have just confirmed her preference is to attend on 4th December, which the committee has suggested would be at 12.30pm (approximately) for 30-40 minutes. Grateful if can confirm as soon as possible that this works for you too.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 November 2024 15:08

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Higher History committee appearance

Fiona/Martin

I believe the ECYP committee will have been in touch to suggest attendance on either 4th or 11th December alongside the Cabinet Secretary. Her office have confirmed that 11th December would be her preference and we can arrange a pre-brief in advance of the session. I know Fiona is on leave today, so wanted to make sure that Martin was aware as this will mean that the roundtable tomorrow is cancelled.

We can catch up on practicalities here tomorrow.

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 27 November 2024 15:36

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson  
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Higher History committee appearance

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for letting us know. I can make any time on Wednesday 4th.

Regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

Scottish Qualifications Authority

**[Chain as 27 November 2024 15:08 email above]**

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From: [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 27 November 2024 16:08

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Higher History committee appearance

Hi [REDACTED],

Many thanks for letting us know.

Fiona's preference would be 11th December. Is this still an option? If not, Fiona can make herself available on 4th December.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chief Executive's Office, Corporate Office

Scottish Qualifications Authority | Ùghdarras Theisteanas na h-Alba

**[Chain as 27 November 2024 15:08 email above]**

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 28 November 2024 14:20

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Re: Higher History Marking Evidence Session

Thank you for confirming, Fiona. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2024 2:15:16 PM

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Higher History Marking Evidence Session

Thanks [REDACTED]

I will attend with the Cabinet Secretary.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Sent: 28 November 2024 14:03

To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>

Subject: Higher History Marking Evidence Session

Importance: High

Dear Fiona

We have now heard back from the Cabinet Secretary's office that she is willing to provide evidence to the Committee at next Wednesday's meeting (4th December). Can I confirm that

you will also be available then, please – as we are aiming to finalise next week’s Agenda and Committee Papers in the next hour, if possible.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

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**From:** Education, Children & Young People <ECYP.committee@Parliament.Scot>

**Sent:** 28 November 2024 16:32

**To:** Education, Children & Young People <ECYP.committee@Parliament.Scot>

**Cc:** DL Committee Office - Education, Children & Young People <DLCommitteeOffice-EducationChildren&YoungPeople@parliament.scot>

**Subject:** Education, Children and Young People Committee 4th of December

Good afternoon,

The papers for the Education, Children and Young People Committee meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December have now been [published](#).

Thank you for confirming you will be attending in person. The evidence session is scheduled to begin at **12.30pm** and is expected to conclude at **1pm**.

We recommend that you arrive at the Parliament by **12.10pm** in order to get through the airport style security.

Linked is a [guide](#) with information to help those coming to the Parliament to give evidence to committee. We also have a [privacy notice](#) which explains how the parliament processes your information.

A member of the Clerking team will come and collect you from the main hall and take you to the Committee room.

Should you have any questions about the logistics or the meeting itself, please contact me.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education, Children and Young People Committee

-end-