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Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority

CC: Chair of SQA

17 December 2024

Dear Fiona,

As you are aware, I have been raising queries with officials about the 2025 exam timetable and the level of coincident and consecutive exams, particularly the scheduling of Higher English and Higher Psychology on the same day. I am sympathetic to concerns being raised by MSPs on behalf of their constituents which set out the very real impact on learners of a more compressed exam timetable.

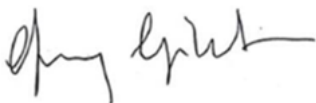
I very much recognise the challenges in setting the timetable in any year, and that in 2025 these have been heightened as SQA sought to accommodate a later start date to the exam diet as requested by SLS and ADES to reflect the later summer term dates in some local authorities.

I am aware of the difficulties for SQA in scheduling and completing exams in a way that avoids pressures on the tight timescales required for marking scripts and processing results.

However, I also note that in previous years the exam diet has been extended beyond the current final date published for 2025. I am, therefore, interested in your views on extending the exam diet by a suitable amount of time to address the significant increase in coincident exams. I would be grateful for your willingness to explore creative solutions here.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



JENNY GILRUTH