From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 01 May 2026 10:54
Subject: X8377603 History Asgn Higher V0.2

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8377603. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Please ensure that the team does not attempt to download any scripts (MFI) or candidate placeholders (MFP) prior to the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

For components that have standardisation, this includes Practice and Qualification scripts, these must not be completed until after the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 01 May 2026 11:55
Subject: X8727603 Eachdraidh (History) Obair (Asgn) Higher V0.2

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8727603. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Please ensure that the team does not attempt to download any scripts (MFI) or candidate placeholders (MFP) prior to the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

For components that have standardisation, this includes Practice and Qualification scripts, these must not be completed until after the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: [redacted]qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 06 May 2026 09:37
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Higher History Assignment Standardisation

Morning everyone

I am forwarding the email below sent to the non-core team.

Thanks very much for your hard work, loyalty, and expertise.

See you all on Monday.

Best wishes

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 06 May 2026 09:24
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Higher History Assignment Standardisation

Hi

It was really nice to see you all yesterday. As mentioned, I attach some of the slides I shared in case useful for responses to queries from your markers.

I also thought it best to email directly so you have my new email when submitting your marker gradings [redacted] qualifications.gov.scot

I would also welcome your thoughts on the non-core Standardisation Day itself. You have a very important role as an additional and objective check on the selected scripts, but the day is also for you to familiarise yourself with the Briefing, Practice & Qualification scripts in preparation for your role as TLs. Is one day enough or would two be better, given that there are also seeded scripts now that we mark MFI? I am aware of release restrictions, but your thoughts would be very welcome and would help me prepare for next year's procedures.

Finally, for clarification.....

Congratulations to

[redacted] on his appointment as DPA for **Paper 1**

[redacted] on his appointment as DPA for **Paper 2** and the **Assignment**

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Humanities, Care & Services – Qualifications Development Directorate

m: [redacted] | e: [redacted] @qualifications.gov.scot

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

qualifications.gov.scot

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

Exception	Description	Marker Action
Image Rescan request	You should raise this exception when you are unable to mark the candidate's response because the image you are viewing is of poor quality and you believe a rescan would improve the quality of the image, therefore allowing you to mark the response. Some examples of this include scan lines, folded pages or image skew.	If image is to be rescanned RM will remove the script from your work list. RM will inform you of this. No further action is required from you. If RM do not think that a rescan will improve the image then you should raise the script as an Undecipherable exception.

Offensive Content	You should raise this exception when the candidate's response contains offensive, obscene or frivolous material. Examples of this include vulgarity, racism, discrimination or swearing.	Raise this exception and enter a short report in the comments box. You should then mark the script and submit in the normal manner
Incorrect Question Paper	You should raise this exception when the image you are viewing does not correspond to the paper you are marking.	Raise script as an exception. Do not mark the image until Qualifications Scotland have contacted you and provided advice.
Undecipherable	You should raise this exception when you are unable to mark the candidate's response because the response cannot be read and you do not believe that a re-scan will improve the situation because the problem is with the writing and not the image. Some examples of this include poor handwriting and overwriting the original response.	Raise script as an exception to alert Qualifications Scotland staff. Qualifications Scotland will contact you to advise further action and when to close the exception.
Answer Outside of Guidance	You should raise this exception when you are unable to mark because the Marking Instructions do not cover this candidate's response.	Act on advice from Team Leader.
Concatenated Script Exception	You should raise this exception when the additional object(s) ie pages or scripts displayed **do not** belong to the candidate you are marking. You need not use this exception if the additional objects are transcriptions or additional pages submitted for the candidate.	Raise script as an exception. You can mark the correct script then review the marks once the erroneous script has been removed. Qualifications Scotland will contact you and advise of any actions and when to close the exception.



From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 08 May 2026 08:52
Subject: X8727603 Eachdraidh (History) Obair (Asgn) Higher V0.4

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8727603. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Can you return any realignment forms before 11:30am to allow us time to make the amendments.

Where this is not possible, please note, we will endeavour to complete the amendments necessary, however, changes may not show in RM Assessor until 12:30pm the following day.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@sqa.org.uk **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Scottish Qualifications Authority
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 08 May 2026 09:48
Subject: X8377603 History Asgn Higher V0.4

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8377603. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Can you return any realignment forms before 11:30am to allow us time to make the amendments.

Where this is not possible, please note, we will endeavour to complete the amendments necessary, however, changes may not show in RM Assessor until 12:30pm the following day.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

From: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 12 May 2026 11:43
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Upcoming History Markers' Meetings

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Hope you are both well.

I have attached the 'Information to Markers' templates for the rest of the remote History markers' meetings. Can you please read over and let me know if you would like me to make any amendments. I have added in reference to attending for the full meeting and RM uploads 'on the day of' as per your previous meetings. **The template is not included as it contains no information.**

Please also review the information below to ensure it is an accurate reflection for on the day delivery.

Event	Date	Time	Location
National 5 QP	03/06/2026	09.30 – 16.00	Lowden
Higher QP 1	08/06/2026	09.30 - 15.00	Optima
Higher QP 2	11/06/2026	09.30 – 15.30	Optima

- Live MS Teams meeting with introduction recorded for contingency.
- Introduction and 'main room' to last at least 45 minutes.
- Breakout rooms – split using hierarchy received at 2pm one working day before.
- Teams to be issued individual links to the main meeting and breakout room the day before.
- [redacted] and senior team to be sent an email with all breakout room links the day before.
- TLs and markers to return to main room for closing plenary. Please confirm timings with events staff on the day.
- Please advise if you would like the chat closed for the introduction. Please note, chat MUST be open for at least 10 minutes at the start so markers can alert us to any technical issues. Events will close once all queries are dealt with if required.
- Events staff will be on hand 1 hour prior to meeting start.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] | Events Delivery – Operations
Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba
qualifications.gov.scot

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 15 May 2026 09:27
Subject: X8377601 History Higher British, European and World History

Dear colleague,

In preparation for marking, please ensure that you have completed the following actions. These should take no more than an hour of your time.

- Log in to RM Assessor[3] at https://qualscot.assessor.rm.com/ and consolidate your training by marking some scripts in 'Familiarisation' mode. 'Familiarisation' mode lets you use RM Assessor[3], the e-marking system, ahead of live marking and practise what you have learned from your Academy training course. Please note that marks or changes made in 'Familiarisation' mode aren't saved or monitored and you might not see the component that you'll be live marking. If you're **new** to e-marking, you'll be prompted to change the password when logging in for the first time on RM Assessor[3].
- Access and read the User Guide for MFI Markers on RM Assessor[3].
- Complete the **e-marking – Marking from Image (MFI) course** on Academy https://appointees.academy.qualifications.gov.scot/emarking26. You can refer to this course throughout your marking activity.

Scripts will be available to mark in RM Assessor[3] using 'Simulation' mode from 19 May 2026. 'Simulation' mode is a training tool that gives you access to live candidate responses. You can mark these scripts in RM Assessor[3] using the appropriate tools and annotations set up for your paper. We'll automatically remove marks or any responses in your simulation work list prior to the start of your live marking period that begins on 08 June 2026.

We'll post a copy of the Question Paper and marking instructions (MIs) on RM Assessor[3] up to two days before your markers' meeting. For papers where candidates write their responses in a booklet that is separate from the questions (this is known as an unstructured format), the MIs will include the questions.

Please ensure you have access to a copy of the MIs before attending the markers' meeting.

We'll send you a link to your marker's report 75% through the marking period and also once marking has been completed. You must complete and submit your marker's report at the end of your marking period.

To assist you with your planning and preparation, we've listed the key dates for the component you are marking:

Academy training to be completed by	06 June 2026
Markers' meeting	08 June 2026

Marking start date	08 June 2026
Marking end date	22 June 2026

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Progress Pillar - Marking Services

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 15 May 2026 09:33
Subject: X8377602 History Higher Scottish History

Dear colleague,

In preparation for marking, please ensure that you have completed the following actions. These should take no more than an hour of your time.

- Log in to RM Assessor[3] at https://qualscot.assessor.rm.com/ and consolidate your training by marking some scripts in 'Familiarisation' mode. 'Familiarisation' mode lets you use RM Assessor[3], the e-marking system, ahead of live marking and practise what you have learned from your Academy training course. Please note that marks or changes made in 'Familiarisation' mode aren't saved or monitored and you might not see the component that you'll be live marking. If you're **new** to e-marking, you'll be prompted to change the password when logging in for the first time on RM Assessor[3].
- Access and read the User Guide for MFI Markers on RM Assessor[3].

- Complete the **e-marking – Marking from Image (MFI) course** on Academy https://appointees.academy.qualifications.gov.scot/emarking26. You can refer to this course throughout your marking activity.

Scripts will be available to mark in RM Assessor[3] using 'Simulation' mode from 19 May 2026. 'Simulation' mode is a training tool that gives you access to live candidate responses. You can mark these scripts in RM Assessor[3] using the appropriate tools and annotations set up for your paper. We'll automatically remove marks or any responses in your simulation work list prior to the start of your live marking period that begins on 11 June 2026.

We'll post a copy of the Question Paper and marking instructions (MIs) on RM Assessor[3] up to two days before your markers' meeting. For papers where candidates write their responses in a booklet that is separate from the questions (this is known as an unstructured format), the MIs will include the questions.

Please ensure you have access to a copy of the MIs before attending the markers' meeting.

We'll send you a link to your marker's report 75% through the marking period and also once marking has been completed. You must complete and submit your marker's report at the end of your marking period.

To assist you with your planning and preparation, we've listed the key dates for the component you are marking:

Academy training to be completed by	09 June 2026
Markers' meeting	11 June 2026
Marking start date	11 June 2026
Marking end date	28 June 2026

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Marking Progress Pillar - Marking Services

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 25 May 2026 09:57
Subject: X8727602 Eachdraidh (History) Eachdraidh Albannach Higher V0.2

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8727602. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Please ensure that the team does not attempt to download any scripts (MFI) or candidate placeholders (MFP) prior to the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

For components that have standardisation, this includes Practice and Qualification scripts, these must not be completed until after the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 25 May 2026 09:57
Subject: X8377601 History British, European and World History Higher V0.2

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8377601. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Please ensure that the team does not attempt to download any scripts (MFI) or candidate placeholders (MFP) prior to the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

For components that have standardisation, this includes Practice and Qualification scripts, these must not be completed until after the Markers Meeting or the start of the marking event.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 05 June 2026 10:43
Subject: X8727601 Eachdraidh (History) Eachdraidh Bhreatannach, Eorpach agus An t-Saoghail Higher V0.4

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8727601. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Can you return any realignment forms before 11:30am to allow us time to make the amendments.

Where this is not possible, please note, we will endeavour to complete the amendments necessary, however, changes may not show in RM Assessor until 12:30pm the following day.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 05 June 2026 10:43
Subject: X8377601 History British, European and World History Higher V0.4

Dear Colleague,

Please find attached the updated Hierarchy for X8377601. **Sheet not include as contains list of external appointees and is exempt under s38**

Can you return any realignment forms before 11:30am to allow us time to make the amendments.

Where this is not possible, please note, we will endeavour to complete the amendments necessary, however, changes may not show in RM Assessor until 12:30pm the following day.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Marking Services – Set Up & Maintenance Pillar

Mon-Fri 0800-2100

Weekends/Public Holidays 0900-1700

e: external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot **t:** 0345 213 6612 (Option 4) **w:** Qualifications Scotland

Qualifications Scotland
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, DALKEITH, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 10 June 2026 10:19
To: [redacted]ext.qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Marker in Live Marking - Withdrawn as Non-Attendee at MM

Hi [redacted]

Can you check with the relevant TL for clarity on this and we can arrange for any scripts to be remarked?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 10 June 2026 10:12
To: [redacted]@ext.qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Marker in Live Marking - Withdrawn as Non-Attendee at MM

Hi [redacted]

Please see email below I sent yesterday, I noticed that we have your previous email address with the @sqa-ext domain noted instead of the @ext.qualifications email address, so you may not have received or saw my email.

Can you please review the email below and get back to me at your earliest convenience?

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot

From: External.Assessment
Sent: 09 June 2026 10:27
To: [redacted]@sqa-ext.org.uk
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Marker in Live Marking - Withdrawn as Non-Attendee at MM

Good morning, [redacted]

We received the Markers Meeting Register Supplement for X8377601 History Higher Paper 1, and upon actioning this we noticed one of the markers noted to be withdrawn has marked live scripts. See details below –

[redacted]

10 scripts submitted, 1 closed, 9 pending.

10 scripts in progress.

Majority of these were all marked and/or downloaded yesterday evening between 8pm and 9pm, with the closed script being submitted at 6pm.

Can you please confirm how to proceed regarding this marker? We can deallocate the 10 scripts in the worklist and arrange for the submitted scripts to be sent to another marker as a remark.

Or, if you find that this marker should not be withdrawn and did attend the meeting, please let us know and we will ensure she is not withdrawn.

Look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot

From: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 18 June 2026 17:06
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]
[redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: Events Delivery <events.delivery@qualifications.gov.scot>; John[redacted]
[redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Higher History Markers' Meeting

Hi

Would it be possible for the recordings of the PA MM briefings – Higher Assignment, Higher Paper 1 and Higher Paper 2 – to be uploaded to the relevant Higher Eachdraidh platforms on RM.

Would it also be possible for the Briefing, Practice and Qualification scripts to be uploaded for the Assignment, Paper 1 and Paper 2, along with the question papers (History and Eachdraidh) and marking instructions, in preparation for the marking of the Gaelic History scripts.

Thanks very much

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Humanities, Care & Services – Qualifications Development Directorate

m: [redacted] | e: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

qualifications.gov.scot

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: Examiners <examiners@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 23 June 2026 08:54
To: Examiners <examiners@qualifications.gov.scot>; Events Changes <events.changes@qualifications.gov.scot>; Events Tare <events.tare@qualifications.gov.scot>; Venue BookingsEP <venue.bookings.ep@qualifications.gov.scot>; Events Expenses <Events.Expenses@qualifications.gov.scot>; QP Procedures <QP.Procedures@qualifications.gov.scot>; NQQC <nqqc@qualifications.gov.scot>; AC Enquiries <ac.enquiries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; PAS Admin <pasadmin@qualifications.gov.scot>; Examination Exceptional Circumstances <eec.enquiries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>; Marking Support Management <MarkingSupportManagement@qualifications.gov.scot>; Appointees <appts@qualifications.gov.scot>; SM.Management <SM.Management@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Malpractice <malpractice@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Grade Boundaries <grade.boundaries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Data Completeness <data.completeness@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Facilities <facilities@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: 2026 Procedural Programme Change - Eachdraidh Higher

Good morning,

Please note the assignment has now been added to the component section below.

Kind regards,
[redacted]

From: Examiners
Sent: 22 June 2026 16:10
To: Events Changes <events.changes@qualifications.gov.scot>; Events Tare <events.tare@qualifications.gov.scot>; Venue BookingsEP

<venue.bookings.ep@qualifications.gov.scot>; Events Expenses <Events.Expenses@qualifications.gov.scot>; QP Procedures <QP.Procedures@qualifications.gov.scot>; NQQC <nqqc@qualifications.gov.scot>; AC Enquiries <ac.enquiries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; PAS Admin <pasadmin@qualifications.gov.scot>; Examination Exceptional Circumstances <eec.enquiries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>; Marking Support Management <MarkingSupportManagement@qualifications.gov.scot>; Appointees <appts@qualifications.gov.scot>; SM.Management <SM.Management@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Malpractice <malpractice@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Grade Boundaries <grade.boundaries@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Data Completeness <data.completeness@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Facilities <facilities@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: 2026 Procedural Programme Change - Eachdraidh Higher

Hello,

Please see change(s) below:

Subject:	Eachdraidh (History)
Level and Component:	Higher Question Paper 1 & 2 and Assignment
Procedure:	Central Marking
Type of Change:	Additional event
Event start date:	29th June 2026
Event end date:	30th June 2026
Event Venue/Room:	Qualifications Scotland Optima – 3.4

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Operations – Logistics & Customer Engagement

t: [redacted] | **e:** examiners@qualifications.gov.scot | **w:** http://www.qualifications.gov.scot

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: [redacted]
Sent: 27 June 2026 09:48
To: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: N5 and Higher Eachdraidh Central Marking Events

Good morning [redacted]

Many thanks for your email. It is very much appreciated.

Best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted], Classical Studies & History

Humanities, Care & Services – Qualifications Development Directorate

t: [redacted] **e:** [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot | **w:** http://www.qualifications.gov.scot
Qualifications Scotland
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 26 June 2026 17:13
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: N5 and Higher Eachdraidh Central Marking Events

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your email and expressing your concerns.

[redacted] and I have now spoken with [redacted] regarding the access issues encountered and can confirm that everything access wise has been set up correctly. Looking through the various correspondence, it would appear this was human error and the wrong sites were being accessed which impacted delays.

We are ensuring that everything is set up correctly for your event on Monday, however, should you encounter any issues, don't hesitate to contact us and will ensure assistance is provided to rectify.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
NQ Delivery: Assessment & Data Services, Operations

Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba

From: [redacted] <John.Moran@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 26 June 2026 15:18
To: External.Assessment <external.assessment@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <Denise.Dunlop@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: N5 and Higher Eachdraidh Central Marking Events

Good afternoon,

Given the issues we have had today with our two markers for N5 Eachdraidh not being set up properly for RM Assessor, is everything already in place for the Higher Central marking event starting on Monday 29th June.

We have only 3 days for two markers to get through 70 scripts and we have lost more than half of today trying to sort out access issues with RM Assessor.

We can't have a repeat of this on Monday for Higher Eachdraidh. It is critical we have everything in place prior to that event taking place.

Many thanks and best regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted], Classical Studies & History

Humanities, Care & Services – Qualifications Development Directorate

t: [redacted] **e:** john.moran@qualifications.gov.scot | **w:** http://www.qualifications.gov.scot
Qualifications Scotland
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 20 August 2026 14:15
To: Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>; Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Media enquiry - Higher History
Importance: High

Hi folks

We've had the following detailed enquiry in about Higher History, which covers a number of points, including mention of a colleague and the team in general.

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And just to be clear, coverage of this is almost certainly going to include the fact that the History team at QS is led by the same people who were in charge the last time there was a major

controversy over marking. I know that caused issues internally (and eventually externally) last time so I figure it's only fair to make that explicitly clear.

-ends-

Thanks

[redacted]

From: Iain Morrison
Sent: 20 August 2026 15:01
To: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>; Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted] @qualifications.gov.scot>; Georgina Holmes <georgina.holmes@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] @qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted] @qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Higher History

Afternoon all.

I have had word that there is a lot of negativity in the SATH chat, which might be related to this. I will attempt to get more details.

Agree with John that 5pm is a very quick turnaround for something so detailed.

Iain

Iain Morrison

Head of Humanities, Care & Services | Ceannard nan Daonnachdan, Cùram & Sheirbheisean

Qualifications Development | Leasachadh Teisteanasan

m: [redacted] | **e:** iain.morrison@qualifications.gov.scot | **w:** http://www.qualifications.gov.scot
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW, G2 8DQ

From: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 20 August 2026 14:55
To: Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@qualifications.gov.scot>; Georgina Holmes <georgina.holmes@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Media enquiry - Higher History

Thanks [redacted]

Can we bring in something on Understanding Standards and the number of teachers that took part in that.

Also be interested to know what SATH's view is on these claims?

I'm not sure what time the query came in but 5pm seems like a ridiculously short deadline for such a complex enquiry and set of accusations.

John

John Booth

Chief Strategy Officer

Qualifications Scotland

qualifications.gov.scot

From: Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2026 14:16
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@qualifications.gov.scot>; Georgina Holmes <georgina.holmes@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Media enquiry - Higher History

Looping Georgina in here as Iain is on A/L.

Donna Stewart | Chief Qualifications and Examinations Officer | Qualifications Scotland | Teisteanasan Alba
donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot

From: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Sent: 20 August 2026 14:14
To: Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>; Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@qualifications.gov.scot>
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-ends-

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[redacted]

From: Iain Morrison
Sent: 20 August 2026 15:02
To: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>; Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>; Georgina Holmes <georgina.holmes@qualifications.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]qualifications.gov.scot>; [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Media enquiry - Higher History

I am awaiting a response from the SATH President as to when she would like to meet with us again.

Iain

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Head of Humanities, Care & Services | Ceannard nan Daonnachdan, Cùram & Sheirbheisean

Qualifications Development | Leasachadh Teisteanasan

m: [redacted] | **e:** iain.morrison@qualifications.gov.scot | **w:** http://www.qualifications.gov.scot
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Qualifications Scotland
Teisteanasan Alba

From: John Booth <john.booth@qualifications.gov.scot>
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And maybe add that we regularly engage with SATH and will be meeting them again on XXX [not sure if in diary] which will enable us to hear first hand from the history teacher community.

John

John Booth

Chief Strategy Officer

Qualifications Scotland

qualifications.gov.scot

MS Teams Chat

Iain

20/08 16:17

Hi [redacted] Hope all is well. Just wanted to make you aware that H History marking is kicking off again - media and SATH comments. I will keep you informed once I know more.

[redacted]

20/08 16:21

Hi Iain, I'm okay, thank you. I hope all is well with you. That's not great to hear. Keep me posted with any developments when you can. Thanks very much for the heads up. Its much appreciated.

Iain

20/08 16:22

Will forward you the media enquiry...

[redacted]

20/08 16:24

Thanks Iain.

From: Iain Morrison
Sent: 20 August 2026 16:23
To: [redacted]@qualifications.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Media enquiry - Higher History
Importance: High

FYI

Iain Morrison

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[redacted]

ENQ 12901

ENQ 12901 – Higher History_ '*procedural unfairness due to post-exam changes to Higher History Marking criteria'* **Parental enquiry**

Details of Complaint / Enquiry (received Saturday 22/08/26 @21:00):

Formal complaint about procedural unfairness due to post-exam changes to Higher History Marking criteria.

To the Qualifications Scotland Complaints Team, I am writing to lodge a formal complaint regarding the handling and assessment of the 2026 Higher History examination, specifically concerning Paper 2: Scottish History - Context 3: Mary, Queen of Scots.

My daughter recently received a Grade B, for this qualification. This was unexpected as she was expected to get an A and believed she performed well in the exam. I have strong reason to believe her raw mark was artificially suppressed due to a failure in procedural fairness by Qualifications Scotland.

Specifically, my complaint focuses on the following points:

1. Retroactive Tightening of Criteria: It has been widely reported by professional educators and markers that the marking instructions for the Scottish History paper were significantly altered and tightened after the diet was completed. This effectively altered the baseline expectations for depth and detail midway through the process.

2. Inequitable Assessment Environment: By changing the definition of an acceptable answer after the scripts were collected, candidates were penalised for information they could not have known was forbidden. This did not test their historical knowledge or analytical skills; instead, it created an arbitrary hurdle that unfairly disadvantaged the cohort.

I understand that an academic appeal would only review her paper against the existing rules so there is little point in appealing her grade. However, this complaint challenges the fairness and validity of the rules applied to Paper 2.

I look forward to your formal response within your standard 20-working-day complaint window.

Points to consider:

- Did marking criteria/marking instructions change post examination
- Did markers receive different instructions during the marking process
- Procedural fairness
- Candidate disadvantage
- Transparency
- Impact on 2026 candidates - assessed using the same substantive marking instructions/criteria that applied when they sat the examination.

ENQ 12901 - Draft Response to Parent:

Exam scripts are marked by Qualifications Scotland appointees, who are practising teachers and lecturers. These markers are provided with comprehensive training to ensure a consistent standard before they begin marking. There are also quality assurance processes in place to ensure marking is to a consistent standard throughout the full marking period. These quality assurance measures include team leader checks and support, as well as system checks. Please be assured there are processes in place to check marking standards before grades are finalised.

The marking of question paper scripts includes ongoing quality assurance built into the system, and there is a consistency of the application of marking instructions.

Qualifications Scotland offers a free appeals service. As part of this service there are checks to ensure all marking has been applied consistently to national standards.

A fundamental principle of Qualifications Scotland Awarding is that final grades are only based on learners' demonstrated attainment as reflected in their performance in exams and other assessments, as measured against the national standard set in Qualifications Scotland assessments and specifications. Qualifications Scotland grading is based on referencing learners' performance against national standards.

We set the A, B, and C grade boundaries in such a way that i) makes sure standards are maintained and ii) considers how the assessments (exams and coursework) have performed. *Higher History in 2026 performed as intended, with a slight improvement on A-C attainment*.

One of the most important ways in which Qualifications Scotland maintains standards is through the awarding meetings that take place after examination and marking is complete. Grade boundaries are determined at these meetings.

Meetings are held for each individual subject and at each individual level. The grade boundaries are set based on the judgement of the level of demand of the assessments for each individual

subject. Central to this process is the expertise of the Principal Assessor and their deputes for each subject. These are experienced course teachers and lecturers who understand the national standard and lead on the assessment creation and marking process. These subject experts, together with Qualifications Scotland staff, review a range of qualitative and quantitative information, this includes teacher estimates for learners, feedback from markers, and statistical data on the performance of each question.

If the examination and other assessments for a course perform as expected with the intended level of challenge, irrespective of the overall performance of any one cohort of learners, then no changes to grade boundaries are made. If any aspect of the assessments are judged to be slightly more or less challenging than expected, then a small adjustment to the grade boundaries can be considered to ensure fairness to learners and standards are maintained.

ENQ 12918

ENQ 12918 – Higher History – **Centre enquiry -** [redacted] - '*Concerns about Higher History sent from the department to the Co-ordinator:'*

Details of Enquiry – email received from centre via [redacted] **- Wednesday 26/08/2026 @ 16:41**

Placed on hold 02/09/26 - due for a follow up to the hold email or a response by 11/9/26.

Please note although the original email makes reference to other subjects, this enquiry relates specifically to Higher History. All other subject enquiries have now been responded to. We can provide the responses to these if needed.

In History, there were issues surrounding the marking and changes within the marking:

She had summarised the key points from The Herald article into concerns around Higher History marking this year.

Our Scottish topic is used as a specific example – one of the H Marking Team has also admitted on the SATH Facebook group that changes were made *during the marking process* as a result of new information which was brought to light. All very well to update marking instructions with new information, but it means pupils who used Thomas of Hunsingore as an example of Edward's subjugation of the Scots as we have taught for 20 years, would not have been credited this year, which would appear to penalise candidates.

We have already made the change to a new Scottish topic as of this session, but you will see there are also concerns regarding marking and credited points in this topic too.

Given we had 16 'near misses' at Higher, 8 of those between 1 and 3 marks short of an A pass, it is disappointing that the calibre of marking and consistency of the Higher team is being called into question for Higher once again.'

Points for consideration:

- Issues raised relating to the marking and changes within the marking– where there changes to the marking process?
- Reference made to an article from The Herald article with regards to concerns around Higher History marking this year – what issues were raised in The Herald article and how did Qualifications Scotland respond?
- Scottish History – a member of the Higher Marking Team admitted on the SATH Facebook group that changes were made *during the marking process* as a result of new information which was brought to light – did this happen and what was the new information?
- Pupils who used Thomas of Hunsingore as an example of Edward's subjugation of the Scots (taught for 20 years), would not have been credited this year – did this happen?
- Penalise candidates
- Calibre of marking and consistency of the Higher team is being called into question again.

ENQ 12918 - Draft Response:

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