

Copies of all internal or external communication regarding publication of the Higher History Review 2024, including media planning

Board of Management members key

KT – Ken Thompson
MW – Michelle Wailes
AD – Anna Davies
SH – Sean Hagney
GS – Graham Smith
JM – John Morton

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 October 2024 17:10
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Update on Higher History

Thanks for the update, we will ensure the Cabinet Secretary is aware.

[REDACTED]

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 4:55:22 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Update on Higher History

[REDACTED]

At the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on Monday, I indicated that our Head of Standards hoped to conclude the review this week before publication. I said that we were seeking factual comments from a number of individuals, including a review by a senior Director at WJEC.

Following receipt of comments, some further work is being undertaken. We have concluded that the report will not be published this week, and should therefore be published after the October break. I have discussed and agreed this with the Chair.

Please be assured that colleagues continue to undertake this work as a matter of utmost priority.

I am happy to discuss.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: Fiona Robertson

Sent: 03 October 2024 22:26

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] Shirley Rogers
<shirley.rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sqa.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk)>

Subject: RE: Update on High History investigation

Thanks [REDACTED]

I can meet at 3.30pm on Monday.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sqa.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk)>

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 2:33 PM

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

Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] Shirley Rogers
<Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on High History investigation

Fiona

Ms Gilruth has confirmed she would appreciate an oral briefing on this, would 15.00
or 15.30 work for this on Monday 7th October?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Director for Education Reform

Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba

You can contact me on: [REDACTED]

*I am emailing at a time that is convenient to me, there is no expectation for a response outside
of your normal working hours.*

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 7:50 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Update on High History investigation

[REDACTED]

I am back today and feeling much better, thank you.

I think we covered this when we spoke late last week. The review has not yet concluded and a number of steps will need to be taken before publication. I am of course very keen that this work is concluded as soon as possible, but I also think it's important that the work is undertaken fully.

I don't think there is much more that I can say at this time, but very happy to discuss further with you or the Cabinet Secretary.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority
w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Update on High History investigation

Hi Fiona

I hope you are feeling better and back at work.

At the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 18th September you hoped to provide an update to the Cabinet Secretary and officials on the investigation into Higher History by the end of w/c 23rd September. I'd be grateful to understand when an update will be provided and we would be happy to arrange a further meeting with the Cabinet Secretary by the end of this week if that would be helpful?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Director for Education Reform
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim

Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba
You can contact me on: [REDACTED]

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 23 October 2024 09:29
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: HH draft timeline

Hi

As discussed yesterday, proposed timeline for report activities, pre- and post-publication.

John

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 24 October 2024 11:29

To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Margot McKerrell <Margot.McKerrell@sqa.org.uk>;
Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: HH timeline

Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi

Without pre-judging the outcome of the review, but based on the assumption the external review will be completed by Monday and we can then move to report finalisation ready for Fiona's return on Tuesday, attached is a timeline that will hopefully take us through to publication by the end of next week. Thursday morning is looking quite busy(!) but if we can make good progress with all the assets and have everything lined up in advance we can deliver.

Thanks

John

END

START

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2024 17:33
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: FW: SG briefing

To be aware – we had suggested Wednesday, but Cab Sec keen to be briefed tomorrow (I appreciate tomorrow will be Fiona's first day back so potentially tricky).

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2024 5:23 PM
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: SG briefing

Fiona o/r

The Cabinet Secretary has requested an urgent briefing on Higher History. Her diary provides more flexibility tomorrow than Wednesday and I would be grateful if you could confirm as soon as possible tomorrow what is feasible from your perspective. I have copied in private office in order to aid arranging.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Director for Education Reform
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim
Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba
You can contact me on: [REDACTED]

I am emailing at a time that is convenient to me, there is no expectation for a response outside of your normal working hours.

END

START

From: Martyn Ware

Sent: 29 October 2024 10:49

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Draft report for editing

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand from [REDACTED] that you will help us with editing our report of the review of Higher History. Thanks for this.

I have attached a copy of the current version of the draft report. It is still subject to some changes as we finalise the content but I thought it would be helpful for you to see it now so you can start to work on it. I will look for a time later today for us to discuss what we would like you to do: that may be best after you have had a chance to have an initial read over the draft?

As you may be aware we are planning to publish the report this week so time is tight. The content of the report is also sensitive and as a result on a very limited circulation so please do not share it further.

Thanks again for your help with this.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 29 October 2024 10:59
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Editing job

Thanks, Martyn

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2024 10:51
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Editing job

Have just shared with [REDACTED] and suggested a call later today when she has had a chance for an initial read. I highlighted tight timescales and sensitivity of content.

Thanks again.

Martyn

Martyn Ware
Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:48
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Editing job

Many thanks, Martyn – much appreciated.

[REDACTED]

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2024 10:39
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Editing job

Thanks [REDACTED] I'll send [REDACTED] a copy of the report and look for a time to brief her on it asap.

Regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 10:28
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Editing job

Hi Martyn

Hope you are well.

Understand that the Higher History report is ready for editing.

Iain is on leave this week – so [REDACTED] is going to do the edit. As [REDACTED] hasn't been involved with the report so far, when you share the report with her, would you mind briefing her on it – taking her through what you need done with it and answer any questions she may have.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

END

START

-----Original Appointment-----

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

Sent: 29 October 2024 15:26

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higher History catch up

When: 30 October 2024 09:30-10:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Passcode: [REDACTED]

For organisers: [Meeting options](#)

END

START

-----Original Appointment-----

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

Sent: 29 October 2024 11:08

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Higher History catch up

When: 29 October 2024 16:30-17:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Passcode: [REDACTED]

For organisers: [Meeting options](#)

END

START

From: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2024 14:17
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Higher History

Thanks Fiona

A briefing would be helpful, Cab Sec's office has asked me to join the discussion at 17.45 too and it would be useful to know the position beforehand. A short note would be good if there's not a chance for a chat

Thanks

S

Shirley Rogers CBE
Chair, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
e: shirley.rogers@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1FD
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2024 13:56
To: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Higher History

Shirley

I am just back from leave today and the Cabinet Secretary has asked for a meeting on Higher History at 1745. I have asked Martyn Ware to attend. He updated me on developments this morning. The report is near final and we expect the independent expert to endorse the report today.

It might be helpful if we could brief you before this meeting. It would also be useful to discuss the best way of ensuring that you and the Board are content with the report before it is published later this week.

Many thanks.

Fiona
Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority
w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

END

START

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 October 2024 14:38
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: SG briefing

Thanks [REDACTED] 😊

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards
m: 07725 757089 | **e:** martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Fiona Robertson
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 14:33
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: FW: SG briefing

Hi Martyn,

I can see through email exchanges that Fiona would like you to attend this meeting. No official meeting invite was sent just the below Teams link.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive's Office Manager
e: [REDACTED] | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 October 2024 12:30
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: SG briefing

Thanks for confirming,

I have put the call in our diary for 17:45 tonight. Please see Teams link below for you all to join:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Passcode: [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:28 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>

Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: SG briefing

I can do a call at this time.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 October 2024 11:15

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

Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: SG briefing

Hi [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, Ms Gilruth has another meeting at this time.

Is Fiona available at 17:45 for a meeting tonight?

Thanks,

Cameron

[REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> On Behalf Of Fiona Robertson
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:03 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: SG briefing

[REDACTED]

Fiona is just back from leave today and has been in back-to-back meetings all morning. Fiona is available at 3pm today.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Chief Executive's Office Manager
e: [REDACTED] | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 October 2024 17:23
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: SG briefing

Fiona o/r

The Cabinet Secretary has requested an urgent briefing on Higher History. Her diary provides more flexibility tomorrow than Wednesday and I would be grateful if you could confirm as soon as possible tomorrow what is feasible from your perspective. I have copied in private office in order to aid arranging.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
Director for Education Reform
Education Reform Directorate | Buidheann-stiùiridh Ath-leasachadh Foghlaim
Scottish Government | Riaghaltas na h-Alba
You can contact me on: [REDACTED]

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 30 October 2024 16:48
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Draft report for editing

Hi Martyn,

I've attached the edited version. Please let me know if anything is unclear.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 31 October 2024 09:28
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Draft report for editing

Hi Martyn,

Here's the pdf version along with the updated Word doc (contents page updated).

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 31 October 2024 09:02
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Draft report for editing

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks again for your work on this yesterday.

I have attached a version in which I have accepted all your changes and made a small number of others for clarity.

Could you please create a pdf of this doc and return it to me with the same filename?

Thanks again.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 31 October 2024 17:44

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

Subject: HH media release - for initial comment

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi

Attached is the draft media release to go alongside the report publication. This includes the WJEC statement. As we discussed on the call just then with SG, it would be helpful for Cab Sec to see this so she knows both what we and WJEC are going to be saying.

I suggest we include this alongside the shorter version of the report that Martyn and I will work on tomorrow, and aim to get this draft over to SG colleagues by close tomorrow to enable a follow-up conversation with Cab Sec early next week.

To that end, can I ask for any initial comments of changes on the attached. It's longer than I would normally like for a media release but think it's important we have quotes from you all plus WJEC and also go into some detail on the report.

We can do further work to finalise the release before publication so will ensure this is marked as draft when we send.

Thanks

John

END

START

From: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 09:38

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

Subject: RE: HH media release - for initial comment

Sensitivity: Confidential

For completeness< I'm happy too

Thanks

Shirley

Shirley Rogers CBE

Chair, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

e: shirley.rogers@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1FD

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

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

Sent: 01 November 2024 07:04

To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: HH media release - for initial comment

Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks John

So I don't hold this up (heading off to regional event shortly), I am happy for this to progress. I may adjust my comments slightly, but I think the overall approach looks very good.

Many thanks.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 31 October 2024 17:44

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

Subject: HH media release - for initial comment

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi

Attached is the draft media release to go alongside the report publication. This includes the WJEC statement. As we discussed on the call just then with SG, it would be helpful for Cab Sec to see this so she knows both what we and WJEC are going to be saying.

I suggest we include this alongside the shorter version of the report that Martyn and I will work on tomorrow, and aim to get this draft over to SG colleagues by close tomorrow to enable a follow-up conversation with Cab Sec early next week.

To that end, can I ask for any initial comments or changes on the attached. It's longer than I would normally like for a media release but think it's important we have quotes from you all plus WJEC and also go into some detail on the report.

We can do further work to finalise the release before publication so will ensure this is marked as draft when we send.

Thanks

John

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 01 November 2024 14:55
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Board follow-up - for issue this pm

No problem John – Fiona and I just spoke about this.

I'll pick up/issue now.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Executive Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2024 14:53
To: Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Board follow-up - for issue this pm
Importance: High

Hi

Martyn and I have just spoken with Fiona and agreed the attached can go to the Board this afternoon as a follow-up to yesterday's discussion and with a 12 noon Monday deadline for approval to publish the full and summary reports.

Can you issue to Board with following text – feel free to tweak as appropriate.

John
+++

Board members

Further to yesterday's extraordinary Board meeting, please find attached a summary version of the Higher History review report which seeks to address many of the points raised yesterday about presentation during discussion of the full report.

In order to enable us to move to publication of the review findings, could Board members indicate by midday on Monday 4th November whether they are content to approve publication of the full and summary versions of the report.

Thanks etc

END

START

From: SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 15:06

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

[REDACTED] MW]; [REDACTED] [AD]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] KT]; [REDACTED] GS]; [REDACTED] JM];
[REDACTED] SH]; [REDACTED] AD]

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

<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John Booth, SQA Director of Communications

Importance: High

Board members,

Further to yesterday's extraordinary Board meeting, please find attached a summary version of the Higher History review report which seeks to address many of the points raised yesterday about presentation during discussion of the full report.

In order to enable us to move to publication of the review findings, could Board members indicate **by midday on Monday 4 November** whether they are content to approve publication of the full and summary versions of the report. I have also reattached the report in full so you have both items in the same email to review.

Grateful if you could include this mailbox in your reply to allow us to collate Board responses.

Thanks

John

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 09:55

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

Subject: RE: HH media release - for initial comment

Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks Martyn. Changes noted.

John

John Booth

Director of Communications, SQA

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

Sent: 01 November 2024 09:47

To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Re: HH media release - for initial comment

Sensitivity: Confidential

Thanks for this John, I am happy with it too with two comments:

In answer to your question on p2 the additional detail was provided in response to marker feedback in previous years so your point is correct.

For the first line of my quote could we say 'Our review of Higher History has been rigorous and robust with a wide range of evidence....'? This - I think - aligns with our latest press statement and denies the opportunity for anyone to claim they have found a stone that we didn't turn over.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | **e:** martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 15:47

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

Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: HH media release

Hi

I've tweaked this slightly since the last version you saw, including some editing of your quote. Martyn and Shirley are content with their parts.

Would be good to get any final comments when you get a chance. If we can nail this down we can build out the other assets required for publication.

John

END

START

From: Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2024 10:08
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Higher History Report

Thanks Martyn,

Have a great weekend.

Iain

[REDACTED] | e: Iain.morrison@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority | Ùghdarras Theisteanas na h-Alba
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW, G2 8DQ

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2024 09:49
To: Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Higher History Report

Donna, Iain, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Just a line to let you know that the Higher History report will not be published today. I will update you as soon as I can next week.

Regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware
Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 13:38

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Martyn Ware

<Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Press release

Hello again

Draft media release attached. There may be further changes before publication but hopefully provides a broad sense of narrative. Also included the statement from [REDACTED] at WJEC which I know you are keen to see.

Other actions in hand, further to conversations yesterday:

- A summary version of the report, which will be circulated along with the full report to the Board to seek their approval to publish. I'll share this with you at the same time
- Jean is looking into the practicalities of appeals being reopened

Happy to discuss any of the above, or anything else that can be of help.

Thanks

John

John Booth

Director of Communications, SQA

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 08:12

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Press release

Will do. It's with Fiona, Shirley and Martyn for comment at moment but will send over ASAP.

John

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 7:19:33 PM

To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Press release

Hi John

Grateful for sight of draft press release when you get a mo. Copying in colleagues who will pick up in my absence tomorrow.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2024 15:04

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Martyn Ware
<Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Press release

Hi

Please find attached the summary version of the report which will be published alongside the full report.

The Board has been sent this and has been asked to approve publication of the report by noon on Monday.

John

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

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

Sent: 01 November 2024 09:56

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: Review statement - Update on report

[REDACTED]

Just to let you know that the report will not be published this week. I will be in touch as soon as I have a further update.

Regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: Ken Thomson <[REDACTED]> [KT]

Sent: 03 November 2024 18:42

To: SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>;

[REDACTED] MW]; [REDACTED] AD];
[REDACTED] GS]; [REDACTED] JM]; [REDACTED] SH];
[REDACTED] AD]

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

<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John Booth, SQA Director of Communications

Good evening colleagues

Firstly, I want to recognise the work undertaken to produce this report and the summary which we applauded on Thursday and thank you for sending on the updated documents for approval.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ken

Professor Ken Thomson OBE

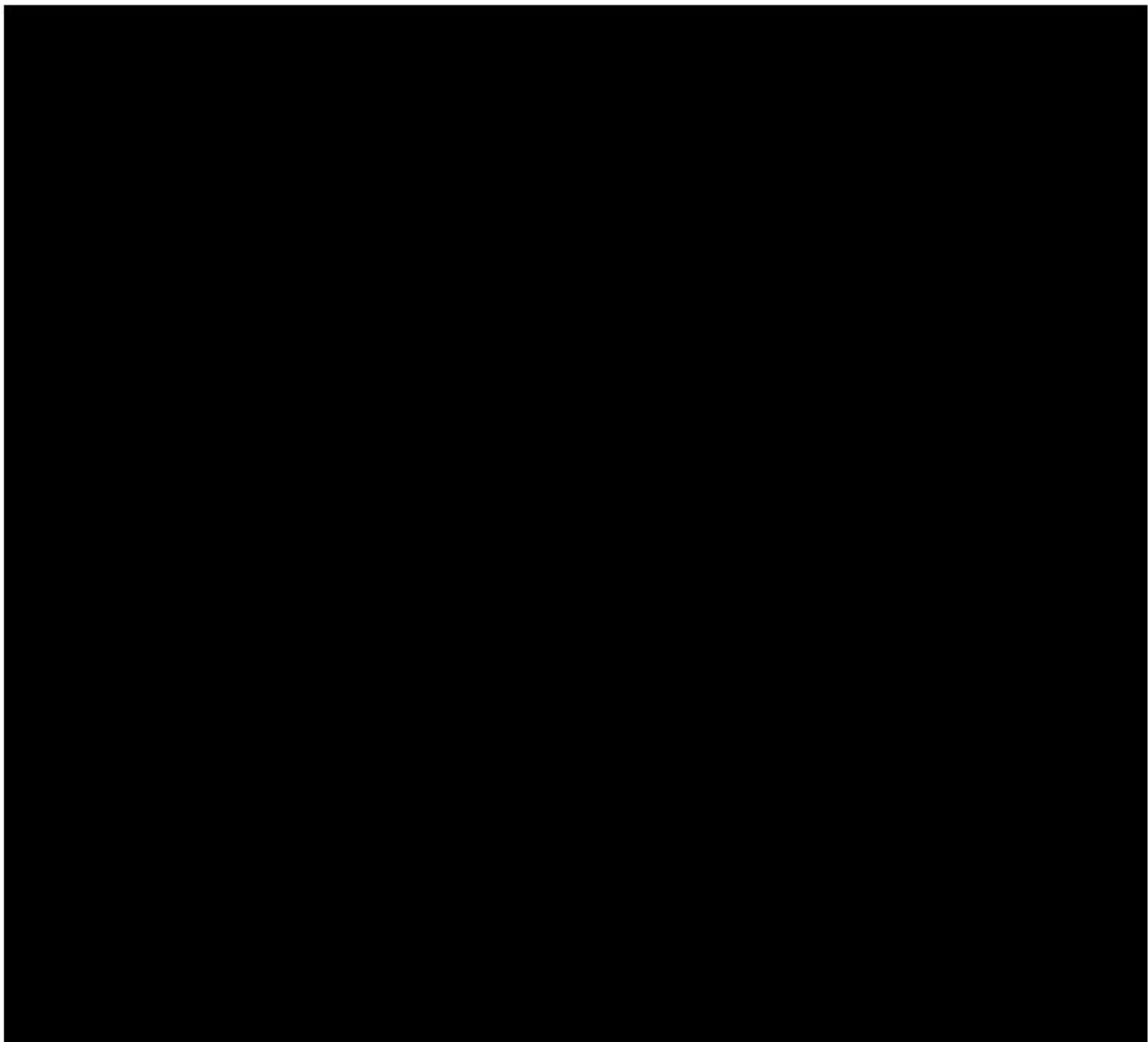
[REDACTED]

END

START

From: Sean P Hagney <[REDACTED]> [SH]
Sent: 03 November 2024 21:52
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> SQA Chief Executive's Office
<ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] [MW];
[REDACTED] [AD]; [REDACTED] [GS]; [REDACTED] [JM];
[REDACTED] [AD]
Cc: ExecutiveTeam <ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn
Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John
Booth, SQA Director of Communications

Thank you for the opportunity to spend more time reflecting on this summary and
extensive report. It is clear that everyone involved in setting, marking and quality
assuring the Higher History qualification has worked with integrity and aimed to ensure
fairness for all learners.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

With every good wish,

Seán

END

START

From: Anna Davis <[REDACTED]> [AD]

Sent: 04 November 2024 10:50

To: Grahame Smith <[REDACTED]> [GS]

Cc: SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [KT]; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Michelle wailes <[REDACTED]> [MW]; John Morton
[REDACTED] [JM]; ExecutiveTeam <ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth
<John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley
<Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Sean P Hagney
[REDACTED] [SH]

Subject: Re: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John Booth, SQA Director of Communications

[REDACTED]

I have reviewed the summary paper and concur with many of the comments from my colleagues including thanks to everyone who has contributed to the review.

[REDACTED]

Thanks, Anna

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 November 2024 18:18

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

Subject: Agreed SG lines on HH report

As an aside to the Board discussions, SG have now shared the lines that have been signed off by the Cab Sec. I've pasted below.

John

SG spokesperson:

"The SQA has published its review into the marking of Higher History in 2024.

"It is welcome that SQA has identified areas for improvement from having undertaken this review, including improving how feedback received from markers is considered."

DETAILED LINES TO TAKE IF ASKED

On Findings:

- The Scottish Government accepts the report's conclusions.

On peer review:

- We note that the report has been independently scrutinised and endorsed by the Executive Director of Qualifications and Assessment at WJEC, Wales' largest awarding body.

On time delay:

- While it was important that there was sufficient time to allow the report to be thorough and for independent scrutiny to take place, we recognise that this work has taken SQA longer than anticipated. There are lessons to be learned going forward in that regard as we move to establish Qualifications Scotland.

On improvements SQA will take forward:

- It is welcome that SQA has identified areas for improvement from having undertaken this review, including ensuring a better understanding of the end-to end process of marking and grading processes among teachers, and improving how feedback received from markers is considered so they are assured their concerns are being listened to and, if necessary, dealt with

John Booth

Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2024 16:05
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: cover note.

Thanks 😊

Fiona

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority
w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2024 16:01
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: cover note.

Thanks. Some changes in red below. We sent the summary version on Friday so not sure if you want to send again? Have removed that reference for now.

News release attached for inclusion.

John

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2024 15:55
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: cover note.

Suggested note. Hope this fits the bill.

Board members

First of all, sincere thanks for your very considered comments on the Higher History report, following our meeting on Thursday afternoon.

The attached document, prepared by Martyn Ware, provides a detailed response on how we propose that these are handled before publication. In considering these, I think it is important that that we make the distinction between matters of presentation and the content of the report. Ultimately, while I accept that this will be seen as a SQA report and the Board has an important role to play, this was commissioned from the Head of Standards, with external

oversight provided by WJEC. As John Morton has said, too much revisiting at this stage could be viewed critically. Colleagues would also need to revisit the external and internal assurance processes to date.

Michelle has raised important matters of governance, and I think we acknowledged at the Board on Thursday that, given the unprecedented nature of this work, there are some process and governance issues to consider in slower time with the Qualifications Committee. Fiona has kept me fully informed from the inception of this review.

I am not, at this stage, proposing another round of approvals. Further delay of this report brings further risk and I am keen that, subject to the views of Scottish Ministers, that we publish **this week**. However, if individual board members wish to discuss further, please do let me know.

For completeness, the press release is also attached to this email **which includes the quote from the external reviewer**.

Many thanks

Shirley

Fiona

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

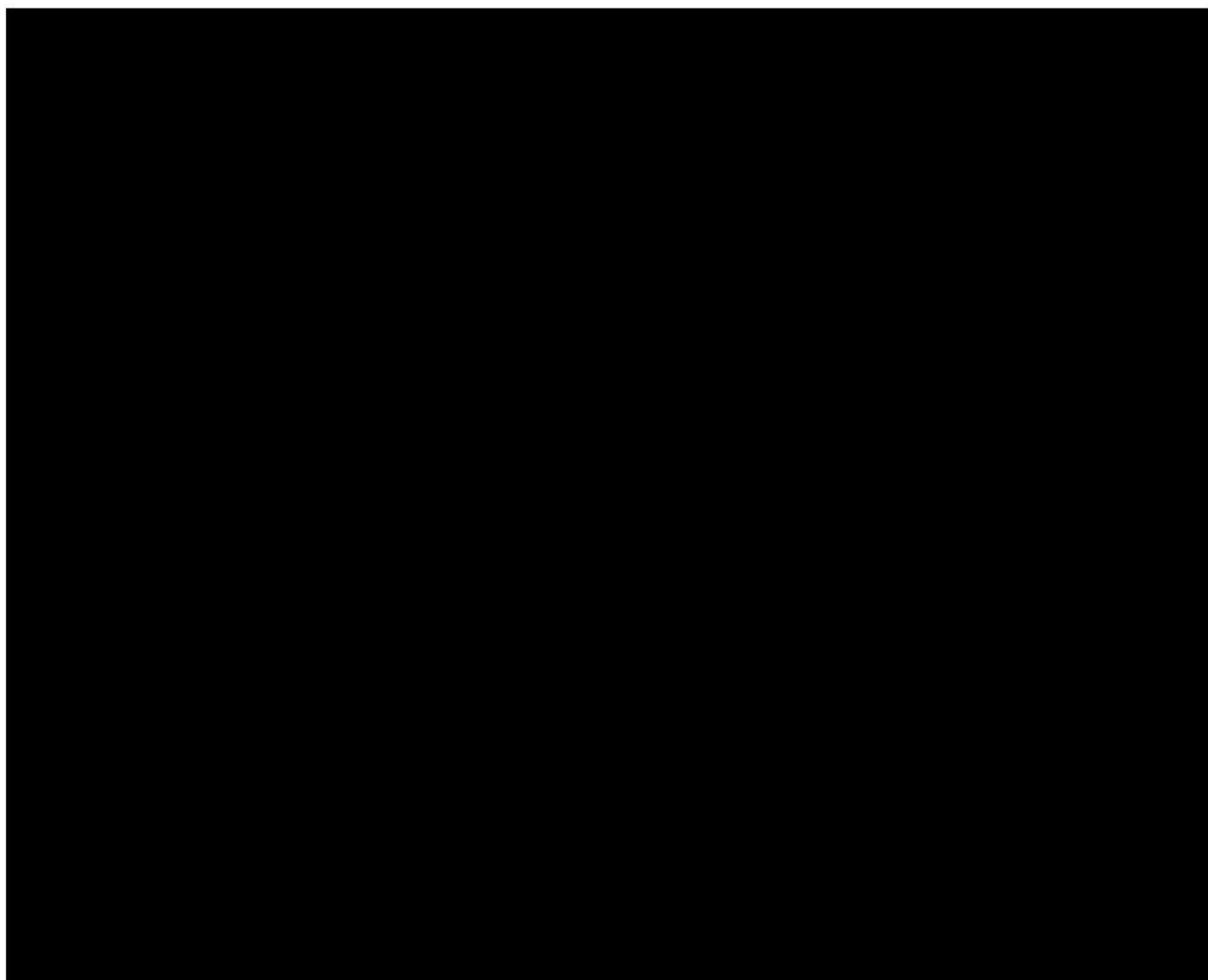
END

START

From: Grahame Smith <[REDACTED]> [GS]
Sent: 04 November 2024 09:57
To: SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] [KT]; Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>;
Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] [MW];
[REDACTED] [AD]; [REDACTED] [JM]; [REDACTED] [AD];
ExecutiveTeam <ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware
<Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Sean P Hagney [SH]
Subject: Re: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John
Booth, SQA Director of Communications

First, I commend the efforts of everyone involved in undertaking this investigation and in preparing these Report. Considerable resource has already been devoted to this and it is in everyones interest to have this matter concluded as quickly as possible.

It appears to me that the conclusions drawn from the evidence presented are appropriate. That said, I note Sean's comments and am interested in considering the response to them.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Grahame

END

START

From: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 04 November 2024 13:43
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: HH media release

Some thoughts attached. Thanks John.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive
Scottish Qualifications Authority
w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden,
Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2024 15:47
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: HH media release

Hi

I've tweaked this slightly since the last version you saw, including some editing of your quote.
Martyn and Shirley are content with their parts.

Would be good to get any final comments when you get a chance. If we can nail this down we
can build out the other assets required for publication.

John

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 November 2024 18:14

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

Cc: Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Higher History Review report - Response to Board members' comments

I'm also content and have attached an updated version of the media release, bringing the summary of findings into notes for editors. I'm happy to review the length of the quotes tomorrow to see if we can shorten the main text further – I agree it is a longer release than we would normally issue but think it is a consequence of the report and the various comments required.

John

John Booth

Director of Communications, SQA

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

Sent: 04 November 2024 18:10

To: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Higher History Review report - Response to Board members' comments

Thanks Shirley

Just to confirm, I am content. I think you can also ask me, as Chief Examiner, to consider future approaches and advise QC and the Board.

Martyn/Steve, grateful if this could issue tonight.

Thanks again.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ | 24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1F

From: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 November 2024 18:05

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

Cc: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Higher History Review report - Response to Board members' comments

Martyn

Thank you. A few thoughts. I just shared them in a conversation with Fiona and she was content – I say that because I think she was rightly logging off for the evening.

I think the media release is too long. I would prefer a shorter version maybe using some of the detail in an “notes to the Editor” format, but I’ll go with John’s advice.

I like the matrix of how each of the Board members points have been dealt with. I think that strikes the right balance between showing that each has been properly considered and accepted where appropriate.

I have amended the cover sheet to the Board as set out below in red: Can this one be used please

Board members

First of all, sincere thanks for your very considered comments on the Higher History report, following our meeting on Thursday afternoon. There was a great deal of information to digest in quick order and I and the team appreciate your prioritisation of these matters.

The attached document, prepared by Martyn Ware, provides detailed information on how we propose that matters are handled before publication. In considering these, it is important that that we make the distinction between matters of presentation and the content of the report. Ultimately, while I accept that this will be an SQA report and the Board has an important role to play here, this was commissioned from and written by the Head of Standards, with external oversight provided by WJEC and it is important that the factual content of the report remains as drafted. Revisiting the findings at this stage would be inappropriate, subject to criticism and colleagues would also need to revisit the external and internal assurance processes to date. In matters of presentation, I hope that you will see the efforts that Martyn has gone to in order to try and address those concerns. I am particularly grateful to him for all his hard work.

Michelle has raised important matters of governance, and I think we acknowledged at the Board on Thursday that, given the unprecedented nature of this work, there are some process and governance issues to consider in slower time with the Qualifications Committee. I also acknowledge that members have differing views on how these kinds of issues should be addressed in the future, for example in the stage and level at which we engage with external support and so on. Fiona has kept our sponsor team and me informed throughout but I have also noted the comments raised by colleagues and will ask QC to provide advice on the future approach to be taken should similar circumstances arise again.

I am not, at this stage, proposing another round of approvals, but I hope that you can see the efforts that Martyn has gone to in order to resolve matters. Delaying the report brings further risk and potential criticism and I am keen that, subject to the views of Scottish Ministers, we publish this week. However, if individual board members wish to discuss further, please do let me know.

For completeness the press release, which includes the quote from the external reviewer, is also attached to this email.

Many thanks

Shirley

Thanks again for all your hard work Martyn, come back to me if there's anything else you need.

Thanks

S

Shirley Rogers CBE

Chair, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)

e: shirley.rogers@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Lowden, 24 Wester Shawfair, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 1FD

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

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

Sent: 04 November 2024 16:54

To: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Higher History Review report - Response to Board members' comments

Importance: High

Shirley

In the first attached document we have provided responses to the key points made by Board members on the Higher History Review by email following the meeting last Thursday. We have set out proposals for how these points are handled before publication.

We have also prepared a draft note (below) for you to consider sharing with the Board together with this document and the draft press release that is also attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions on either document.

Thanks and regards

Martyn

Board members

First of all, sincere thanks for your very considered comments on the Higher History report, following our meeting on Thursday afternoon.

The attached document, prepared by Martyn Ware, provides a detailed response on how we propose that these are handled before publication. In considering these, I think it is important that that we make the distinction between matters of presentation and the content of the report. Ultimately, while I accept that this will be seen as a SQA report and the Board has an

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Many thanks

Shirley

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

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

Sent: 04 November 2024 20:50

To: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] MW];
[REDACTED] AD]; [REDACTED] KT];
[REDACTED] GS]; [REDACTED] JM]; [REDACTED] SH];
[REDACTED] AD]

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

<John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Higher History: A note to SQA Board members

Importance: High

In confidence

Good evening board members

Please see note below from Shirley Rogers.

Regards

Fiona Robertson
SQA Chief Executive

Board members

First of all, sincere thanks for your very considered comments on the Higher History report, following our meeting on Thursday afternoon. There was a great deal of information to digest in quick order and I and the team appreciate your prioritisation of these matters.

The attached document, prepared by Martyn Ware, provides detailed information on how we propose that matters are handled before publication. In considering these, it is important that that we make the distinction between matters of presentation and the content of the report. Ultimately, while I accept that this will be an SQA report and the Board has an important role to play here, this was commissioned from and written by the Head of Standards, with external oversight provided by WJEC and it is important that the factual content of the report remains as drafted. Revisiting the findings at this stage would be inappropriate, subject to criticism and colleagues would also need to revisit the external and internal assurance processes to date. In matters of presentation, I hope that you will see the efforts that Martyn has gone to in order to try and address those concerns. I am particularly grateful to him for all his hard work.

Michelle has raised important matters of governance, and I think we acknowledged at the Board on Thursday that, given the unprecedented nature of this work, there are some process and governance issues to consider in slower time with the Qualifications Committee. I also acknowledge that members have differing views on how these kinds of issues should be addressed in the future, for example in the stage and level at which we engage with external support and so on. Fiona has kept our sponsor team and me informed throughout but I have also noted the comments raised by colleagues and will ask QC to provide advice on the future approach to be taken should similar circumstances arise again.

I am not, at this stage, proposing another round of approvals, but I hope that you can see the efforts that Martyn has gone to in order to resolve matters. Delaying the report brings further risk and potential criticism and I am keen that, subject to the views of Scottish Ministers, we publish this week. However, if individual board members wish to discuss further, please do let me know.

For completeness the press release, which includes the quote from the external reviewer, is also attached to this email.

Many thanks

Shirley

END

START

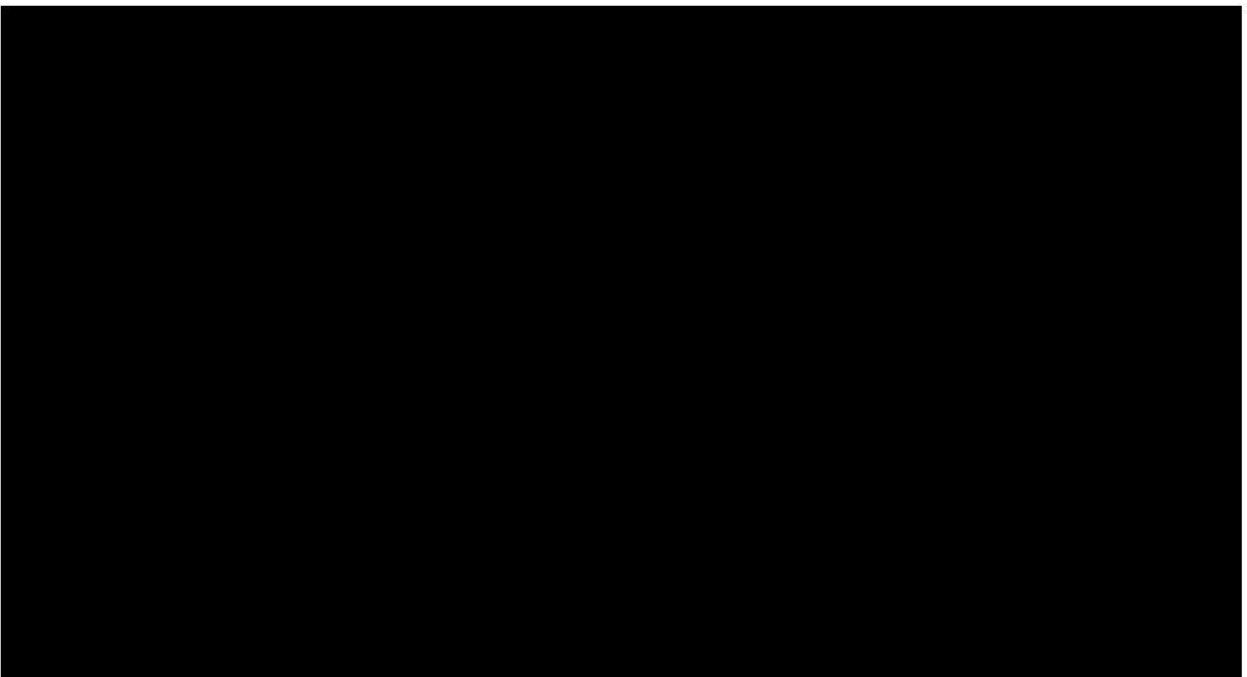
From: John Morton <[REDACTED]> [JM]
Sent: 04 November 2024 11:51
To: SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED] MW]; [REDACTED] AD]; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED] KT]; [REDACTED] GS];
[REDACTED] SH]; [REDACTED] AD]; ExecutiveTeam
<ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware
<Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley <Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Re: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John Booth, SQA Director of Communications
Importance: High

Good morning colleagues

Thanks for sharing the report and summary and also for the commitment of everyone involved in undertaking the review.

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Board meeting last week, but I support most of the comments already shared here.



Thanks

John

John Morton
Director
morcom solutions
Tel 07515 352 461


On 1 Nov 2024, at 15:05, SQA Chief Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk> wrote:

Board members,

Further to yesterday's extraordinary Board meeting, please find attached a summary version of the Higher History review report which seeks to address many of the points raised yesterday about presentation during discussion of the full report.

In order to enable us to move to publication of the review findings, could Board members indicate **by midday on Monday 4 November** whether they are content to approve publication of the full and summary versions of the report. I have also reattached the report in full so you have both items in the same email to review.

Grateful if you could include this mailbox in your reply to allow us to collate Board responses.

Thanks

John
John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: Michelle wailes <[REDACTED]> [MW]
Sent: 04 November 2024 12:12
To: Anna Davis [REDACTED] [AD]
Cc: Smith Grahame [REDACTED] GS] SQA Chief Executive's Office
<ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] KT] Shirley Rogers
<Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; John Morton
[REDACTED] JM]; ExecutiveTeam <ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth
<John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley
<Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]> Sean P Hagney
[REDACTED] SH]; Smith Grahame [REDACTED] GS]; SQA Chief
Executive's Office <ceo.office@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For approval by 12pm on Monday 4 November: Higher History -- A message from John
Booth, SQA Director of Communications

Good morning all,

Having read the responses provided by other Board Members I do not feel that I have any additional points that need to be recorded.

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 November 2024 09:54
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Higher History Review - Request for approval of adjustment to report

Hi Martyn - no concerns on the change, and thank you for sight of the summary.

[REDACTED]

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:56:46 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Higher History Review - Request for approval of adjustment to report

[REDACTED]

I'm writing to ask for your approval of an adjustment to the Higher History Report in response to feedback from our Board of Management. The adjustment is presentational and does not affect the substance or conclusions of the report.

In summary our Board has expressed reservations about the use of the term 'Recommendations' in the report. To reflect this feedback we now propose to use the term 'Wider reflections' for this section and to add the following introductory text before the list of points:

'While beyond the immediate scope of the review, some wider reflections have emerged during the review process. There are areas for continuous improvement which could strengthen the way the education community works together during the assessment and awarding process and which could also support learning and teaching.'

The text of the recommendations/wider actions remains unchanged.

Could you please let me know if you are comfortable with this adjustment? If so, for consistency we will amend your endorsement statement so that it refers to 'wider reflections' rather than 'Recommendations'.

Also in response to feedback from our Board we have produced a short, summary version of the report that will be published with it. The text of the summary is taken from the main report. I have attached a late draft of this summary version for your information.

As I am sure you will appreciate I would appreciate a response as soon as possible - and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 November 2024 10:37
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Higher History Review Slides

Thanks, John

Have made a few minor proofing tweaks – and have added an example of the qualitative and quantitative evidence used in grade boundary meetings – *such as the estimates received from schools and colleges* – just in case there is a question around what this evidence is.

[REDACTED]

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2024 08:12
To: Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Higher History Review Slides

Morning

Updated slide pack for use in internal and external briefings on outcome of HH review.

Grateful for any comments/improvements.

Thanks

John

END

START

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2024 21:06
To: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For Review: Key messaging and Q&A re. Higher History review

Thanks for this Richard. Overall looks good and v helpful prep for tomorrow.

I have made just a few minor comments on most pages but a few more on the last couple of questions. I hope my comments are clear: let me know if not.

Thanks again for your insights and guidance in our rehearsal earlier.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards
m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 10:36
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: For Review: Key messaging and Q&A re. Higher History review
Hi Martyn,

Hope you are well and bearing up during this challenging time.

Would either yourself or an appropriate colleague be able to review this Key Messaging and Q&A document we have developed to support comms re. the HH review?

 [HH key messages.docx](#)

We have done the best we can and aligned with the report text. John B is content with this draft but it obviously needs to be reviewed by someone with the necessary technical understanding.

Kind regards,

Richard Pidgeon

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 05 November 2024 07:41

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

Subject: Shortened news release

Hi

Have attempted to shorten the release further – including your quote Fiona – (see tracked changes) and moved the summary of findings to the notes section.

Can you let me know if you're content with this version, thanks.

Martyn – can you also check the 56 out of 69 figure (see highlight) which I think is helpful is making 81% meaningful. I've based it on 81% of the 69 Scottish history markers who gave feedback.

John

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 10:19
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Almost final version of report

thanks

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 November 2024 10:18
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Almost final version of report

Thanks, John – neither [REDACTED] or I have access to the link – so [REDACTED] is checking the word version Martyn sent as an attachment, last night – [REDACTED] will pick up this point.

[REDACTED]

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 09:57
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Almost final version of report

[REDACTED] please make sure [REDACTED] picks up a small but important addition on p2 (point 8 in the exec summary) – ‘...who are all teachers...’

John

 [SQA_Higher_History_Review_2024_FINAL_FOR_PUBLICATION_20241106 1.docx](#)

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2024 20:40
To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Almost final version of report

Great thanks John.

amended the term Recommendations to Wider Reflections and included the new short introductory para under this heading on p. 47

Searched for and replaced any other uses of the words 'Recommendation/s'

Grateful if you could:

confirm that the wording is the most up to date where I have asked on p 6 and 47

Double check that the line I have highlighted on p 12 is consistent with the new summary doc

I take it we'll then ask an Editor to have a final look at formatting (as the title of Appendix 1 needs added in the contents page (and I mess the whole list up if I try to do it) and the number of the Wider Reflections section is missing from p 47) and then to pdf for publication?

Hope that is clear and makes sense. Let me know if not.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 November 2024 10:33

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

Subject: Final HH comms assets

Hi

Final news release, key messages/Q&A and slide deck. Thought it might be useful for you to have these all in the one place.

John

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 November 2024 10:23

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Final HH news release and key messages/Q&A

Morning all

Please find attached the final news release for the Higher History review. This will issue at 2pm today when the reports (full and summary versions) will be published on the SQA website.

I've also attached our key messages and Q&A (for internal use only).

Thanks

John

John Booth

Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 10:11
To: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For approval: awarding process

Looks good me too, thanks [REDACTED]

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards
m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 10:06
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Thanks [REDACTED] I think this will work for the moment.
Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations
t: 0345 213 6799 | e: jean.blair@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 November 2024 10:00
To: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Thanks, all – will get the changes made.

- Stage 2 - Markers are practising teachers and lecturers and SQA is dependent on them to mark over 1.3 million graded National Course exam scripts, assignments and coursework every year.
- Stage 4 - Standardisation is led by the Principal Assessor and supported by their senior team leaders and team leaders. Its main purpose is to finalise the detailed marking instructions based on a review of a sample of responses from learners who have sat the question papers and completed coursework.

- Stage 8 - **Grade boundary meetings determine the minimum marks** needed to get an A, B, C, or D grade or a 'No Award' result. Grade boundaries help ensure assessments have worked as planned and that standards are consistent from one year to the next. Every year we review how each course assessment has performed in order to set grade boundaries fairly.

With regards to the mention of 'for subjects that are marked from paper' at the marker check and finalisation stages – Richard has suggested that for the purposes of this publication, we say:

- Marker check (for example for Higher History)
- Finalisation (for example for Higher History)

We can then sort this infographic out for more generic use, later?

Would that work?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 November 2024 09:21

To: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Hi

I discussed this with [REDACTED] last night.

The infographic is generic but as History is marked from paper the stages of marker check and finalisation apply. As most of our subjects are now MFI, these two stages do not apply and whilst I agree about the lay audience, it won't be accurate and means it won't be aligned to the report.

[REDACTED] I think we need to address the reference to exam papers and assignments in stage 2 and to QPs in stage 4 eg marker meetings apply to coursework marking too.

Hope this is helpful.

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

t: 0345 213 6799 | e: jean.blair@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

24 Wester Shawfair, Lowden, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 1FD

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 09:15
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Agree looks good. Do we need to include (...marked from paper) under 7 and 9? Appreciate it is technically accurate but think will confuse most people and don't think it makes a material difference for a lay audience.

John
John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 08:58
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>;
Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For approval: awarding process

Looks good, thanks [REDACTED]

With apologies I've one small additional point on #8: technically GB meetings only set the GB for A band 1, A and C - the others are determined statistically from this.

Could we revise the wording to say: 'Grade boundary meetings determine the minimum marks.....'.

Apologies for another change.

Martyn
Martyn Ware
Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards
m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 08:49
To: Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Morning

Here is updated infographic with your changes made.

Please let me know if this is good to go or if any final tweaks are required.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 November 2024 20:11
To: Donna Stewart <donna.stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <john.booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <richard.pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: RE: For approval: awarding process

Many thanks to you all for your comments.

We'll get another version of this round to you in the morning.

Donna – will get you text for appointees in the morning too.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2024 15:59
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk> Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For approval: awarding process

Thanks [REDACTED] - I like the look of this.

Agree with Martyn that something in the heading is not reading well. Adding the word 'awarding' makes me sense.

[REDACTED] is there text that I can use in an email to appointees? Apologies if there is something in my inbox that I haven't got to yet.

Many thanks,

Donna

Donna Stewart

Interim Director of Qualifications Development

Stiùiriche Eadar-amail Leasachaidh Ceistean

e: donna.stewart@sqa.org.uk | **w:** <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2024 15:28
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>;
Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: For approval: awarding process

Thanks for this, [REDACTED] - it looks a useful resource.

I've just a couple of comments:

It feels to me as though there is a word missing in 'SQA's process for graded national....'. and wondered if 'SQA's process for **awarding** graded national....'. would be better. Technically some may say awarding happens at grade boundary meetings but each of the stages in the chart is a part of awarding - as I think we have said in the report.

For clarity could we also add 'Exam/assessment' takes place between stages 2 and 3?

Hope that's clear: please let me know if not.

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 12:14
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>; Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; Richard Pidgeon <Richard.Pidgeon@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: For approval: awarding process

Hello

To support the publication of the history report, we've had the attached infographic created – to help explain the different stages in our awarding process.

The text has been taken from the description of each stage within the history report.

Can you please review to ensure its accuracy and let me have any comments you may have on it.

This will be published along with the report and the summary version. In time, we will also develop a video animation clip of the overall process to share across social media channels and as a resource on the website.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

END

START

From: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 10:38
To: ExecutiveTeam <ExecutiveTeam@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Higher History announcement at 2pm

Exec colleagues

Thought you would appreciate seeing the final text of the media release issuing at 2pm alongside the reports (full and summary versions) that will be published online.

I'll share this with SLT before it goes live.

[@Dawnne](#) – can you share with the TU reps at 1.30pm please.

There will be a staff message issuing shortly after 2pm too, which will link to the release and reports.

Thanks

John

John Booth
Director of Communications, SQA

END

START

From: Internal Communications <internalcomms@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 November 2024 14:10

To: Internal Communications <internalcomms@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Higher History review — an update for all SQA colleagues



Colleagues,

A review of this year's Higher History assessments is now complete and we are today publishing the review report, which concludes that the standard in 2024 was the same as that set in previous years.

I hope the outcome of the review, which has been independently scrutinised and endorsed by an external awarding body, will reassure learners, parents, carers, teachers, lecturers and the wider public that they can have full confidence in our assessment and awarding processes.

I would like to thank colleagues involved in this work, which has been taking place since September. This has been a challenging time for them. The report confirms that the Higher History exam team acted with integrity throughout the awarding process.

More information, including the full report and our media release, is [available to view on our intranet](#).

Thanks,

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 06 November 2024 09:03
To: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Higher History Review - Request for approval of adjustment to report

Thanks Martyn – and good luck for this afternoon.
[REDACTED]

From: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 06 November 2024 11:02
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [ALLANOL - EXTERNAL] Re: Higher History Review - Request for approval of adjustment to report

[REDACTED]
Thanks for this confirmation.

Just to let you know that we plan to publish the report at 1400 today. John, our Comms Director, is in contact with your comms team.

Regards
Martyn

Martyn Ware
Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, GLASGOW G2 8DQ

END

START

From: Internal Communications <internalcomms@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 November 2024 13:31

Subject: Higher History review — update for SLT message

SLT colleagues,

You will be aware of the Higher History review that has been taking place over the past two months. The review has now concluded and the review report is being published at 2pm today. I have attached a copy of the media release which will issue at the same time, and which I thought you would appreciate advance sight of.

The review findings have been independently scrutinised and endorsed by an external awarding body (WJEC).

This has been a challenging time for those colleagues involved in the review process. The report confirms that the Higher History exam team acted with integrity throughout the awarding process.

An all-staff message will issue shortly after 2pm.

Thanks,

John Booth
Director of Communications

END

START

From: Martyn Ware

Sent: 06 November 2024 09:13

To: Iain Morrison <Iain.Morrison@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Publication of Higher History Review Report Today

Iain, [REDACTED]

Just a note to confirm that we will be publishing the Higher History Review report at 1400 today.

Regards

Martyn

Martyn Ware

Director of Policy, Analysis and Standards

m: 07725 757089 | e: martyn.ware@sqa.org.uk | w: <http://www.sqa.org.uk>

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

END

START

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 07 November 2024 10:38
To: [REDACTED] Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>;
sphagney20@dundeeschools.scot;
[REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]> Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth
<John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>; John McMorris <John.McMorris@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Donna Stewart <Donna.Stewart@sqa.org.uk>;
Alasdair Smith <Alasdair.Smith@sqa.org.uk>; Steve Borley
<Steve.Borley@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Shirley Rogers <Shirley.Rogers@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED]
Cc: Martyn Ware <Martyn.Ware@sqa.org.uk>
Subject: Higher History review publication

Colleagues,

As we explained at yesterday's meeting of the Qualifications Committee our review of this year's Higher History assessments is now complete. The review report, published yesterday, concludes that the standard in 2024 was the same as that set in previous years. The report confirms that the Higher History exam team acted with integrity throughout the awarding process.

I hope the outcome of the review, which has been independently scrutinised and endorsed by an external awarding body, will reassure learners, parents, carers, teachers, lecturers and the wider public that they can have full confidence in our assessment and awarding processes. More information, including the full report and our media release, is [available to view here](#). As discussed at yesterday's meeting we look forward to exploring with QC how we progress some of the wider reflections arising from the review that form the final section of the report. Please let me know if you have any questions on the report in the meantime.

Many thanks,

Martyn Ware
Director of Policy, Analysis & Standards

END