



Scottish Qualifications Authority  
Ùghdarras Theisteanas Na H-Alba

Our ref: FOI 2021-22 047  
19 August 2021

Contact:  
foi@sqa.org.uk

## **Freedom of Information Request for Review**

On 29 July 2021, SQA received your request for a review under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA). I can confirm that as the Reviewer I have had no involvement in our original response to you. You requested a review in relation to our reply to your original freedom of information request, as shown below.

### **1 ORIGINAL REQUEST**

Please breakdown the appeals in the 5 years prior to 2014 into those lodged from the private and independent sector as opposed to the state sector. Please provide the rate of success of appeals from the private and independent sector compared to the state sector during that period. Please provide the results of any analysis that has been carried out on the impact of pupil performance as a result of the changes introduced in 2014. Please provide any information provided to parents informing them of the changes introduced in 2014

### **SQA's RESPONSE**

The statistical information you have requested is provided in the attached file.

In regard to your question about the impact of pupil performance, the attainment performance of each subject is kept under review by SQA on an annual basis and all aspects are given scrutiny during the awarding (grade boundary) process.

SQA produced a leaflet – A Guide for Parents and Carers to the new National Qualification - which includes a section explaining the Post Results Service introduced in 2014. This is no longer available on our website but a copy is attached. It was published in November 2013.

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Chairman: David Middleton CBE  
Chief Executive: Fiona Robertson

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## **2 REVIEW REQUEST**

I am dissatisfied with your response and am requesting a review. This specifically relates to my request for

"the results of any analysis that has been carried out on the impact of pupil performance as a result of the changes introduced in 2014."

I cannot see anything in your response which provides information on the results of such an analysis other than a very generalised reference which does not meet the requirements of my request,

### **SQA's RESPONSE**

In our original response to you we interpreted your request for analysis of pupil performance as any analysis carried out by SQA on the effect of our appeal/post results services process on pupil performance. Analysis of individual pupil performance is carried out at centre level and is an integral part of the teaching process where learning includes analysis of assessment performance to continue the development of the individual.

The function of SQA as the national examining body is to maintain standards year on year and across subjects. This is the analysis SQA carries out at a national level that is publicly available on the SQA website and referenced in our original response to you. SQA's responsibility is on the performance of its assessments at a national level and not individual pupil performance.

We apologise if we have misinterpreted this part of your request. If you are referring to the performance of SQA's appeals / post results services processes over the years, we would refer you to our response on 5 July 2021 (FOI 21-22 017) where we provided you with the trend analysis carried out and published each year by SQA for the following

Appeals - 2011-2013 – Statistics 2013 - SQA

Post Results Services - 2014-2019 - Statistics 2019 - SQA

This shows the number of requests for review received and the percentages of upgrades, downgrades and those unchanged by subject and level.

These are the only analyses in this area held by SQA.

If both of these interpretations are incorrect, please can you clarify for us exactly what you expect to receive from SQA in response to your request for 'the results of any analysis that has been carried out on the impact of pupil performance as a result of the changes introduced in 2014' – that would be within SQA's function to produce and therefore held by SQA.

If you remain dissatisfied, you have a right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. You must apply to the Commissioner within six months of this response. The Scottish Information Commissioner has launched a new online appeal service. You can now access this online service by using the following web-link:

[www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

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Should you wish to appeal against this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only. Further details on this process are available on the Commissioner's website [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info), other contact details are as follows:

The Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
KY16 9DS  
Tel: 01334 464610  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely

Head of Service