

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 July 2021 09:06

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: 2021 results - OS Code of Practise

Yes, that'd be fine Beth – thanks. I'll (try to) send a Teams invite [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 27 July 2021 09:00

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: 2021 results - OS Code of Practise

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes of course.

Would 5 pm work?

B

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 July 2021 08:59

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk> Subject: 2021 results - OS Code of Practise Importance: High

Hi Beth,

[REDACTED] **Out of scope**

I was hoping we might be able to catch a word today. It's reasonably urgent and potentially somewhat sensitive. My availability isn't great as I am interviewing today, but I'm free 'til 11.45 (except 10-10.30) or from 4.00pm onwards.

Is that doable at all? [REDACTED]

██████████  
Deputy Director, Education Analysis

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From: ██████████@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 July 2021 15:18

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: update

It would be good to see the OSR email if at all possible? ██████████

██████████  
Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 12:45

To: ██████████@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: update

Update = verbally OSR have said yes, it's fine, with proper safeguards and principles for sharing. Unusual times etc, and they understand the need.

They will follow up with an email. So we are on safe ground, we can very reassuring of that.

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

From: Beth Black

Sent: 28 July 2021 12:35

To: ██████████@gov.scot

Subject: RE: update

Thanks ██████████, just about to talk to OSR. But basically the other 3 nations have shared headline provisional results with government/cab sec as MI, under normal controls, to aid planning etc. OSR has given their blessings.

We are making sure OSR don't take a different view for Scotland, but I would be surprised if they take a different view with us compared to Qualifications Wales, Ofqual, CCEA.

I will let you know what they say.

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 July 2021 12:28

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: update

Importance: High

Hi Beth,

Thanks for the chat yesterday – just following up to see if there is any update on this? I've been asked to provide advice to Cab Sec asap.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

### **Pupil Cohort.docx**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 August 2021 15:21

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: S4, S5, S6

I thought I had sent you this, no? Huge apologies if I didn't! Top bit (pupil numbers) all public.

■

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 09 August 2021 15:14

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: S4, S5, S6

[REDACTED]

Hope all going well..

Could you possibly point me in the right direction of the census information for S4 S5 and S6 for this academic session and also last? Or a quick table, whatever easiest.

Thanks.. B

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

\*\*

Principles for sharing Provisional Results

Provisional Results in Sharing - Individual A

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

<[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 12:19

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Many thanks, Herb.

Happy to confirm that I've read these documents and accepted the conditions. Let me know if you need more from me. Otherwise, see you shortly, Katherine.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Job-share with [REDACTED])

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 29 July 2021 11:35

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Importance: High Dear [REDACTED]

Apologies for the late request. (I had requested your name from [REDACTED] and was awaiting a response.)

As we (SQA) will be sharing summary Provisional Results information with you later today, Thursday 29 July 2021, I am required by the Code of Practice for Statistics and its supplementary guidance, to

put in place appropriate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the statistics that we will publish on Results Day.

Accordingly, I have set out and attached the principles that are underpinning SQA's internal and external early sharing of Provisional Results information for the Awarding 2021 session. (See attached document titled Principles for sharing Provisional Results.)

I have also attached a confidentiality agreement that sets out the conditions under which early access to the Provisional Results information is being provided to you and other individuals.

Grateful if you can review this agreement (i.e., attached document titled Provisional Results Sharing – Individual Agreement) and confirm by return email to this message, that you have read and accepted the conditions.

I need this confirmation prior to the meeting.

As usual, don't hesitate to contact me should you have any related queries or questions. Regards,

Herb

Dr Herb Castillo

Head of Statistics

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 10:29

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Hi Herb,

I have read and accepted the conditions. Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 10:10

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Good morning herb – I hope you are well?

I have read both documents and accept the conditions outlined. Have a great day

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Joint Head of Qualifications Unit & Professional Insight Advisor

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 29 July 2021 10:01

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; DirectorofLearning@gov.scot

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Hi Herb,

I can confirm Graeme has read and accepted the conditions. Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Personal Assistant to Director of Learning | Learning Directorate, Business Support Unit

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 09:28

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Herb,

I have seen and noted the documents. Cheers

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 09:09

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Good morning Herb

To confirm, I have read and accepted the conditions as detailed in the document

Provisional Results Sharing – Individual Agreement

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Senior Media Manager

Communications Education & Skills

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 08:27

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Thanks Herb; I have read and accept the conditions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Joint Head of Qualifications Unit | Learning Directorate | Scottish Government |

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 08:24

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Herb thanks, I have read and accept the conditions [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Higher Education and Science Division



From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 29 July 2021 08:17

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Herb

Just to confirm that Ms Somerville has seen and noted your email and attachments. I will be on the call too and have read and understood your note too.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk

Sent: 29 July 2021

To:

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

**\*\* As Above \*\***

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 28 July 2021 21:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

As we (SQA) will be sharing summary Provisional Results information with you tomorrow, Thursday 29 July 2021, I am required by the Code of Practice for Statistics and its supplementary guidance, to put in place appropriate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the statistics that we will publish on Results Day.

Accordingly, I have set out and attached the principles that are underpinning SQA's internal and external early sharing of Provisional Results information for the Awarding 2021 session. (See attached document titled Principles for sharing Provisional Results.)

I have also attached a confidentiality agreement that sets out the conditions under which early access to the Provisional Results information is being provided to you and other individuals.

Grateful if you can review this agreement (i.e., attached document titled Provisional Results Sharing – Individual Agreement) and confirm by return email to this message, that you have read and accepted the conditions.

I need this confirmation prior to the meeting, and ideally by 11:00 am tomorrow.

As usual, don't hesitate to contact me should you have any related queries or questions. Regards,

Herb

Dr Herb Castillo

Head of Statistics

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 28 July 2021 21:55

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Individual agreement for sharing summary Provisional Results information

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

As we (SQA) will be sharing summary Provisional Results information with you tomorrow, Thursday 29 July 2021, I am required by the Code of Practice for Statistics and its supplementary guidance, to put in place appropriate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the statistics that we will publish on Results Day.

Accordingly, I have set out and attached the principles that are underpinning SQA's internal and external early sharing of Provisional Results information for the Awarding 2021 session. (See attached document titled Principles for sharing Provisional Results.)

I have also attached a confidentiality agreement that sets out the conditions under which early access to the Provisional Results information is being provided to you and other individuals.

Grateful if you can review this agreement (i.e., attached document titled Provisional Results Sharing

– Individual Agreement) and confirm by return email to this message, that you have read and accepted the conditions.

I need this confirmation prior to the meeting, and ideally by 11:00 am tomorrow.

As usual, don't hesitate to contact me should you have any related queries or questions. Regards,

Herb

Dr Herb Castillo

Head of Statistics

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Exam diet 2021 - Briefing - Pre-release

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 04 August 2021 16:32

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: Results day pre-release access list

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

The following Tables have been loaded to the secure SharePoint folder, to which you have been given access:

1. Attainment Statistics (August) 2021
2. Attainment Statistics (August) 2021 FEMALE
3. Attainment Statistics (August) 2021 MALE

Restricted access to these publications is granted to the 46 Scottish Government officials in the attached worksheet, as per the regulations and conditions stipulated in The Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008.

I am therefore happy for you to share the tables with these officials.

When sharing the tables, please advise them that these statistics (and any conclusions drawn from them) are restricted until publication at 9.30am on Tuesday, 10 August 2021.

Should officials wish to discuss these statistics or any conclusions drawn from them with any official not on the list prior to the above date, please contact me and I will consider how to widen access within the agreed constraints of the Order.

Regards,

Herb

Dr Herb Castillo

Head of Statistics

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 15:13

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

Hi again Herb,

In light of your e-mail we've made some changes to our plans for briefing and I have managed to reduce the number of people on the attached pre-release list to 46. This is well down on the circa 80 names that were included last year and so I hope this will be acceptable to you.

There have also been some further discussions about the need for a meeting tomorrow afternoon and the decision is that this should now not go ahead – at least not in the initially intended format. Depending on the results it may be that a meeting of some sort (reduced invite list) would be beneficial but I think we can decide that once we've digested the results. We may also be in touch with specific questions once we have the data (and I think in any case it will be useful to have some indication of the impact of administrative checks by SQA post 25th June as indicated in my previous e-mail).

Kind regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 August 2021 12:14

To: 'Herb Castillo' <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

Hi Herb,

I'm still working on the pre-release list – I'm not sure when you are planning to share data with us but I wouldn't want this to hold us up. There will be a core group of people who will require access immediately once it is available so if there's a way/need to work to that list to begin with and then subsequently determine the remaining names after I've discussed more widely with colleagues then that might be best – let me know your thoughts.

As for the meeting tomorrow, yes, I can forward the meeting invite on if that's easiest (or provide e-mail addresses – I guess they'll all be in the original PRA list I provided). As for what to cover, I think a general run-through, any subject-level variances (e.g. compared to previous years), any headline sex and deprivation findings. If possible it would also be useful to get some sense of the impact of administrative checks post 25 June on the results and anything on current appeals data and any subject areas/levels with a greater number of appeals (appreciate this last point might not be possible)./

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 03 August 2021 15:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for the pre-release list.

With 59 names, the list is bigger than I had expected.

To better align with the principles and spirit of The Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008, can you look into streamlining the list, please?

A list of about 30, whilst still a long list, would be more justifiable. Happy to discuss/chat if needed.

With regards to the meeting; I'll organise it for this Thursday, likely the afternoon. I don't have email addresses for all of the officials below. If I forward invite to you, can you send on, pls? (Also, if meeting invitees drop out once you streamline the pre-release list, can you let me know, pls?)

Finally, would you be able to share some bullets with the areas of the 2021 statistics that may be of interest to you and colleagues for the meeting, pls?

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 02 August 2021 12:49

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: Results day pre-release access list

Hi Herb,

As requested, here is the list of those in SG and Education Scotland requiring pre-release access to the results statistics. I assume that you will share them with my team (via Sharepoint) and then I will pass on from there as usual.

If a meeting goes ahead on Thursday then would suggest the following invite list:

The Scottish Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Education Scotland

[REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

\*\*

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 28 July 2021 16:45

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: FW: Update on exams 2021

Hi [REDACTED]

You may be interested in the email chain below, particularly the most recent email from OSR.

On a related note, I will require all attendees to tomorrow's meeting to agree to a set of conditions. I will forward these 'conditions' in separate email.

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 16:28

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi again Herb,

Many thanks for your prompt response. This is really helpful in understanding the reasons for sharing and the policies and procedures that you have put in place.

I have not been able to sign off an email to you with my DD today as she has been in back to back meetings. So I will send a formal one tomorrow.

Basically it is for the lead statistician (you I believe) to make decisions about the procedures around the release of regular and ad hoc statistics, including on content and timing. You need to be clear on the reasons for sharing this data and ensure that you have put in place the necessary principles and procedures to ensure the orderly release of statistics about qualifications 2021. Your email shows me that you have done this.

I will also point you to guidance that it appears you are already aware of.

I hope that will be helpful in reassuring people that the data can be provided. If not, please do come back to me.

In England, I have sent an email to the HoP at DfE asking for their support in ensuring that any release of statistics or analysis relating to qualifications in 2021 should follow the release practices in the Code (ie. make sure that ministers don't quote figures that they shouldn't). If it would be helpful for me to send a similar email to [REDACTED] in Scottish Government then please let me know.

Best wishes, [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 15:59

To: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi [REDACTED]

The purpose of the sharing is to provide Scottish Government officials with an aggregated high-level view of the Provisional Results, to help with preparations for results day. Hypothetically, this could include for example, beginning to think about and make decisions around what support could be offered around University places for announcement on Results Day, etc.

So yes, the sharing will provide the aggregated numbers of grades received; but will also provide a high-level view of the what 2021 headline attainment is looking like, based on the Provisional Results.

The safeguards that we're putting in place include ensuring that everyone is clear about our 'Principles' and explicitly sign-up to them. (See attachments.)

In our view, ensuring that Scottish Government have early view of 2021 attainment is critically important.

Not only have the other nations done similar with their governments; but we were criticised last year in the "Rapid Review of National Qualifications Experience 2020" undertaken by Professor Priestley for not doing so. Professor Priestley noted that:

"Principles relating to what data is appropriate to be held by certain organisations at certain points in time.(i.e. SQA, the Scottish Government), which make perfect sense in normal times (e.g. arrangements around data sharing), appear to have impeded the development of actions that might have led to an earlier anticipation and mitigation of subsequent problems."

Hope this helps; and happy to assist further, if needed. Herb

From: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 15:15

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi Herb,

Thanks for the conversation earlier. I am still considering the wording of our advice.

Can I check what the reason for sharing the data is? You described the data as management information but I am not convinced that it meets that definition. The definition in the National Statistician's Guidance on Management Information and Official Statistics is:

ii. Management information describes aggregate information collated and used in the normal course of business to inform operational delivery, policy development or the management of organisational performance.

Information on the process such as the number of grades submitted would be management information. The data you mentioned sounds more like briefing to give an indication of the grade distribution.

Happy to discuss, [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 10:44

To: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Thanks [REDACTED]

Yes; I will set something up for 12:30. We should only need about 15 minutes.

Speak then, and thanks again for the prompt response. Regards,



Herb

From: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 10:40

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; Bunting, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi Herb,

I have a meeting 2pm-2:30pm other than that I am free from 12:30 until about 4:30. Is there a time within that which works for you?

Thanks, [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 10:25

To: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi E [REDACTED]

In [REDACTED] absence, would one or both of you be available for a chat today?

I want to share an approach that we're taking in terms of providing Management Information. Can you let me know your availability please? (The sooner today, the better.)

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2021 12:19

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Update on exams 2021

Hi Herb,

Further to Nisha's email last week, I wanted to flag that I will be sending a separate email to each of the Chief Executives/ Chief Regulators in the Qualifications Regulators across the UK this afternoon. They set out the key aspects of how we think the Code of Practice for Statistics principles apply to statistics on qualifications in 2021. As results day approaches we want to ensure that the heads of all the organisations are aware of their responsibilities under the Code and are supporting you around the statistics that will be published.

I will copy you in on the email to Fiona.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 July 2021 12:14

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: Update on exams 2021

Hi Herb

Hope you are well. Since it's been a while since we last spoke We were wondering if there were any updates on the Alternative Certification Model 2021 in advance of results day? We also had a couple of specific questions:

- There have been some media interest around historical exam data being used for quality assurance when verifying the data and identifying anomalous results. Also I understand that exams 2020 data will not be used as part of this process. It would be good to hear your views on this.
- Are you planning to put out any specific equality analyses on results day or later and if so what is this likely to be?

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. **Out of scope**

Many thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Statistics Regulator | Office for Statistics Regulation

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 04 August 2021 15:59

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi [REDACTED]

A slight correction/clarification to email below.

We are still doing some work on the 'Commentary' and the 'Equalities Monitoring Report'.

The Commentary (that will accompany the tables on Results Day) will therefore not be pre-released today. Only the tables will.

We will endeavour to pre-release the commentary ASAP, hopefully later this week; and I will ask you to cascade to all 46 officials on the pre-release list.

The Equalities Monitoring Report (EMR) is not an Official Statistics publication, so we will not be pre-releasing to all 46 officials, i.e., today or any other day.

However, we will share the draft EMR with you and [REDACTED] 'in confidence' today.

Grateful if you and [REDACTED] can review the sections that are based on your analyses; and provide any feedback, as appropriate, to us.

When we're happy with the EMR, I would be happy/keen to share with appropriate colleagues at Scottish Government. So not the 46 on the pre-release list, but a smaller group of people with an interest in equalities.

Apologies for any confusion caused; and I will be in touch soon advising on today's pre-release of the Main August Attainment Tables and the August Sex Tables..

Regards, Herb

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 23 June 2021 15:07

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi [REDACTED]

Responses in red to each of your bullets. Note that there could still be changes between now and circa 4 weeks before the publication dates, and if so I will let you know asap.

- On 4th August we will receive pre-release access to the usual tables (by SCQF level, qualification and subject, also by sex?) along with commentary and visualisations (and news release?). Will we also receive pre-release access to the Equalities Monitoring Report at this point? There's particular interest in analysis by deprivation.

Yes, on 04th August 2021, you will be provided with pre-release access to the usual tables (by SCQF level, qualification and subject) and a separate publication 'Attainment by Sex Type, along with commentary, which will include visualisations.

We will also provide pre-release access to the Equalities Monitoring Report (EMR), to which you would have made a significant contribution. Note however, that the SIMD analyses in the EMR will be for Learners at all centres, not just Education Authority schools.

- As in previous years, local authority level data will not be published/available at this point but will be published, based on post appeals data, in February 2022?

Correct. Attainment data by individual Local Authority were previously published in April. However, we are planning to bring these forward to February, from hereon.

Note however, that the Centre Type publication in September (see bullet below), will show attainment for all Education Authority schools as a group, but not by individual Local Authority.

- Results by centre type released in September 2021?

Correct. Target date is 21 September 2021. Commentary with appropriate visualisation will also accompany this publication.

- Post appeals data to be published in December as usual along with appeals report tables.

Correct

o Is there likely to be any indication of the numbers registering for appeals available in advance of results day? The deadline for self- registration for appeals is 12 August, and in fact, a teacher can register a pupil for an appeal up to 27th August 2021. Furthermore, registration for appeal doesn't guarantee that an appeal will be lodged. Therefore, I cannot commit to being able to provide anything definitive before September.

- Will anything separate be published once results for those taking advantage of the contingency arrangement for incomplete evidence are known or will this just be covered in the December release? The current plan is to include these in the December release unless the take-up is 'significant', or we find for some reason, that it would be beneficial for users to publish something prior to December.

A couple of related questions:

o Can you confirm / remind me whether cases making use of the contingency arrangement will be excluded entirely from the results day data or included as entries? They will be excluded entirely from the Results Day publications; but we are likely to include the number of entries registered for IEC in the notes. E.g., "Please note that x number of entries who registered for the Incomplete Evidence Contingency, are excluded from these statistics".

o Is there likely to be any indication of the numbers taking advantage of this available in advance of results day? Yes (providing the current deadline for registering for the Service doesn't shift)

- Anything else of note?

We are keen to maximise users' understanding of 2021 results, and therefore, we may come up with other ideas for things to publish externally. If that happens, I will let you know.

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 June 2021 12:11

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: SQA result statistics

Hi Herb,

I'm being asked a few questions about what material in relation to results will be available when so that we can inform the Cabinet Secretary. I suppose they're really asking for a timeline of all statistics related to 2021 results. I've had a look at the publication schedule on the SQA website so some of this is just checking on what's there. My understanding / assumptions are set out below along with some queries and I'd be really grateful for your input.

- On 4th August we will receive pre-release access to the usual tables (by SCQF level, qualification and subject, also by sex?) along with commentary and visualisations (and news release?). Will we also receive pre-release access to the Equalities Monitoring Report at this point? There's particular interest in analysis by deprivation.

- As in previous years, local authority level data will not be published/available at this point but will be published, based on post appeals data, in February 2022?

- Results by centre type released in September 2021?

- Post appeals data to be published in December as usual along with appeals report tables.

- o Is there likely to be any indication of the numbers registering for appeals available in advance of results day?

- Will anything separate be published once results for those taking advantage of the contingency arrangement for incomplete evidence are known or will this just be covered in the December release? A couple of related questions:

- o Can you confirm / remind me whether cases making use of the contingency arrangement will be excluded entirely from the results day data or included as entries?

- o Is there likely to be any indication of the numbers taking advantage of this available in advance of results day?

- Anything else of note?

Many thanks for your help Herb. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Statistician | Performance and Attainment Statistics Team Education Analysis | Scottish Government

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 05 August 2021 16:34

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi [REDACTED]

Pre-release access is granted to [REDACTED], on the usual basis and with usual conditions. Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 August 2021 16:28

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Thanks Herb,

It's [REDACTED] who is an [REDACTED] at Education Scotland. [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 05 August 2021 16:27

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Yes; that's fine.

Name and role, please?

Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 August 2021 16:12

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi Herb,

I've been asked whether we can add someone to the PRA list – an Education Scotland who covers Mathematics. Please let me know if this is possible.

Thanks [REDACTED]

\*\*

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 August 2021 17:10

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Thanks [REDACTED]

I've sent an email under separate cover, confirming that pre-release access can be provided to the 46 officials.

Would it be possible to provide a further briefing to the Cabinet Secretary, say on Friday, specific to Equalities? (If not let me know, and we'll see what arrangements we can put in place for earlier.)

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 16:08

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi Herb,

Thanks for this. We see that the tables are now in the Sharepoint area and we will pass them on to those on the pre-release list.

There will be considerable interest in analysis by deprivation which is presumably included in the EMR. We were intending to include material on this in the briefing we send to the Cabinet Secretary tomorrow and on Friday. If I am reading this correctly then we will have to exclude this material from our briefing? Given last year's experience I think there will be a lot of interest in this and I understand that the Cabinet Secretary has already expressed an interest in briefing on this following your earlier meeting so this would seem to pose us some problems.

[REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 August 2021 15:59

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

**\*\* Chain As Above \*\***

**\*\***

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 06 August 2021 13:19

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi Andrew,

You may have already noticed that the Statistical Summary (works better than 'Commentary') has been pre-released to you, i.e., share to the secure SharePoint folder.

Happy for you to share with those who have been given pre-release access, with the usual caveat that it may be the final version published on Tuesday. (Any changes will be minimal, and will be around the words; not the numbers.)

As [REDACTED] may have already communicated, happy for you to share the numbers from the EMR with the Cabinet Secretary. There is still some wordsmithing going on, but the numbers won't change.

We will share an updated EMR as soon as we can; which I will be happy for you to share with a wider group.

Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 17:52

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Thanks Herb,

I think Friday would work, yes. [REDACTED]



From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 04 August 2021 17:10

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

**\*\* As chain above \*\***

Sent: 23 June 2021 15:07

\*\*

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 08 August 2021 22:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi [REDACTED]

To confirm that I am happy for these colleagues to be granted pre-release access to the August statistics.

Thanks for providing their names and roles.

Can you also provide i) their Department (as you've done for [REDACTED]), ii) their Organisation (e.g., Education Scotland) and iii) email addresses, pls?

I could also do with [REDACTED]' job title, Department and email address, pls? Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 15:50

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi again Herb,

Apologies but, now that colleagues have seen the data, they have requested some additional names be added to the Pre-Release Access list. Can you advise if this is possible?

The names are:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Colleges, Young Workforce and SFC Sponsorship [REDACTED] - Senior Policy Adviser

Thanks [REDACTED]

██████████  
Statistician | Performance and Attainment Statistics Team Education Analysis | Scottish Government

From: ██████████  
Sent: 05 August 2021 16:28  
To: 'Herb Castillo' <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>  
Cc: ██████████@gov.scot>; ██████████@gov.scot>  
Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

**\*\* Chain as above \*\***

\*\*

From: ██████████@gov.scot>  
Sent: 29 July 2021 12:52  
To: ██████████@education.gov.uk; ██████████@gov.scot  
Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>  
Subject: RE: Early/emerging data meeting

██████████  
Due to data sharing agreements regarding the sharing of SQA data before Results Day, it is best if you contact Beth Black at SQA for this. She can advise.

Thanks ██████████  
██████████

Joint Head of Qualifications Unit & Professional Insight Advisor

From: ██████████@education.gov.uk>  
Sent: 27 July 2021 22:56  
To: ██████████@gov.scot>; ██████████@gov.scot>  
Subject: Early/emerging data meeting

Hello ██████████ and ██████████

We are tentatively exploring the possibility of a meeting of officers to discuss emerging results data across all the 4 Nations.

Do you know of the date when equivalent data for Scotland might available, and I can suggest a meeting to Ofqual (it would be them chairing).

Also, who might attend as the person will have to have signed a confidentiality agreement.

Just early ideas at present, but I think a 4-Nations meeting of this type might be useful for planning for everyone.

Happy to discuss tomorrow if that helps.

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Stakeholder Lead Qualifications Directorate

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From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 06 August 2021 11:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Equalities data

Thanks [REDACTED]

I was about to email [REDACTED] to give him the go-ahead to share the numbers from the Appendix (in the version of the EMR that he has) with the Cabinet Secretary.

We are making some changes to the text in the EMR; but having now reviewed those numbers, they will not change.

So yes; you're good to go! Regards,

Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 11:46

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>; Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Equalities data

Hiya, me again.

Any progress on allowing us to use/share the equalities figures? Cab Sec was understandably irritated that we were not able to share those at this stage in the process, given their importance to the overall picture.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

\*\*

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 29 July 2021 16:39

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Hi [REDACTED]

Given the unique nature of this year's awarding process, I used the authority afforded to me by the Code of Practice for Statistics, to provide headlines summary results to the Cabinet Secretary and some of her officials earlier today.

Whilst the number of officials in attendance was necessarily small, there was representation from the relevant areas of Scottish Government, including Comms and Analysis.

It is possible therefore, that (some) Scottish Government Officials now have the headlines required to begin to plan for Results Day, albeit without the detailed data.

As a consequence, I'm not sure that another meeting will be required(?).

Certainly, none is currently scheduled; although I would be happy to have one if required by Scottish Government. (Might be worth checking with [REDACTED] and/or [REDACTED]; and if one is required, do let me know.)

On another note, I am aware that I have not responded to your request for clarification on any wrap-around words of caution/advice that we may put around how the 2021 statistics should be used.

We're still working on that.

And finally, I will require a list of Scottish Government officials who will require pre-release access to the August statistics. Are you able to provide that, please; using the template that I previously provided?

Regards, Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 July 2021 09:41

To: [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Thanks [REDACTED]

Hijacking this e-mail chain a little, sorry, but do you know if are there plans for a meeting between SQA and SG officials to go through the results? I think there's usually been one arranged for the Thursday during pre-release but don't think I've heard anything this year.

Thanks [REDACTED]

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

Sent: 28 July 2021 14:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot> Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Thanks for turning this around so quickly [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will take a look at this on his return tomorrow and we will get back to you with any questions.

Template for the Attainment – Sex tables is attached. I will let Herb come back on wording, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 July 2021 14:01

To: [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Hi all,

See attached updated analysis using the cut provided yesterday.

Just let me know if you require anything else on this, be it analysis or questions about the characteristics data or linking involved. We will delete the datafiles once you have confirmed you are content with the analysis we have provided.

Look forward to receiving the template for the sex tables and confirmation of wording on comparisons when available.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

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

Sent: 27 July 2021 15:48

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot> Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Email is fine – thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 July 2021 14:30

To: [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>;  
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Final dataset for EQIA

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks – dataset received and downloaded on our end.

I'll send the rerun analysis to you ASAP, should be with you by tomorrow PM failing any urgent asks landing on us between now and then. It's easier to just include the SIMD and sex tables as before than not, so will just keep them in if that's OK – no harm for QA purposes.

I'll send the excel tables to the copy list attached when ready via email – unless you want us to go through Objective Connect (although we would need to ask another stats colleague to upload for us as neither [REDACTED] nor I have access to the Insight shared area we used before, and [REDACTED] isn't back in until Thursday).

Thanks, [REDACTED]

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

Sent: 27 July 2021 13:35

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

Cc: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Final dataset for EQIA

Hello [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The final dataset (as at 23/07/21) has been uploaded to the Sharepoint site. Let me know if any issues with access.

There seems to be a very small number of changes between the datasets.

Copying in [REDACTED] who will lead on the analysis of SG equalities variables – if you could copy him in when you return the updated tables, that would be appreciated.

As Herb indicated, there is no need to include SIMD or Sex in the tables as we are able to do these ourselves using the whole cohort.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]  
Statistician | Policy, Analysis and Standards

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From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 28 July 2021 16:53

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: meeting tomorrow with Cabinet Secretary 12.30 - results day statistics & safeguards around sharing of management information

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

I will require all planned attendees at tomorrow's meeting to confirm (beforehand) that they have read (ideally) both attachments, but more importantly the document titled 'Provisional Results Sharing - Individual Agreement'.

Please ask all Attendees to email me directly before the meeting, confirming that they have read, understood and have agreed to the conditions in the Individual Agreement.

If you can separately share a list of the attendees, as requested by Beth, that would be great.

I'm happy for somebody to confirm on the Cabinet Secretary's behalf, provided she has been briefed and is in agreement with the conditions.

I am happy to discuss as usual. Herb

Dr Herb Castillo

Head of Statistics

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 28 July 2021 14:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: meeting tomorrow with Cabinet Secretary 12.30 - results day statistics & safeguards around sharing of management information

[REDACTED]

I'm hoping you can help. We would like to make sure we can put the right controls and safeguards around sharing of management information relating to results day statistics.

Can you advise on who will be present tomorrow, so we can make sure we have the right awareness of security around the data and agreements in place, so that we are on safe footing re: Official Statistics code of practice.

Am copying in Herb Castillo – our Head of Profession for statistics at SQA who can make the necessary arrangements.

Kind regards Beth

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

\*\*

Exam diet 2021 - Briefing - Pre-release

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 August 2021 15:13

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

**\*\* Chain as above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 03 August 2021 16:19

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

Hi Herb,

I will have another look at the Pre-release list when I am back in the office tomorrow morning and see whether there are any more names we can trim off. However, trying to significantly reduce numbers at this stage is really problematic.

In our previous discussion (see attached e-mail) I had indicated that I expected the number on the list to be similar to last year's original list – around 80 names. I said I would do my best to limit numbers and have managed to reduce them quite a bit – down to 59 names – but, as agreed, I did not attempt to meet any specific limit on numbers.



For last year's revised results we had 32 names on the PRA but this was only achievable because we didn't update the briefing for individual subjects when the results were revised – that's not the case this year.

As previously explained, our briefing covers individual subject areas such as Mathematics, English, STEM, Languages, Gaelic, Music etc. and it makes sense (and is, I think, in-keeping with the PRA Order) that the SG policy and Education Scotland experts on those individual areas are able to contribute to briefing and provide the best advice to Ministers. All of our planning has been taken forward on the basis that those who needed access would have it. To change that now would cause us significant problems.

I'll get back on the meeting content and e-mail addresses as soon as I can. Andrew

[REDACTED]

Statistician | Performance and Attainment Statistics Team Education Analysis | Scottish Government

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 03 August 2021 15:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: Results day pre-release access list

**\*\* Chain as above \*\***

\*\*

Exam Diet 2021 - Briefing - Pre-release

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 August 2021 10:22

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Hi Herb,

Requested information provided and, I'm afraid, a request for two more names to be added – I hope that these are the last of them. Let me know if you are happy for them to be added.

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Statistician | Performance and Attainment Statistics Team Education Analysis | Scottish Government

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 08 August 2021 22:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

**\*\* Chain as above \*\***

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 15:05

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

Thanks Herb,

I see it and will have a look now.

And thanks for the update on the EMR. [REDACTED]

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 13:19

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: SQA result statistics

**\*\* Chain as above \*\***

A-C volumes 1999 \_ 2021.xlsx

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 10 August 2021 07:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi [REDACTED]

Updated with 1999 volumes. Herb

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 09 August 2021 19:54

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi [REDACTED]

2000 to 2021 A-C volumes for N5, H and AH\* are provided in the attached.

\* As the first Advanced Higher exams were held in 2003, the 2000 – 2003 numbers are for its predecessor, the Certificate of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS).

H

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 August 2021 13:12

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Sorry – there's some confusion here.

Fiona has confirmed the position re the number of certificates.

In the course of their conversation, [REDACTED] asked Fiona for a time series of numbers of (A-C) passes in N5s, H and AH, not unique candidates.

I appreciate you have a lot on, but we'd assumed I think that this would largely be to hand. I can live with comparisons back to 2014 (which I already have) if it isn't.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 09 August 2021 12:59

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi [REDACTED]

Operations have re-confirmed that they have no data prior to 2017.

I have also re-confirmed that our numbers (Statistics) – after statistical cleansing, are different to theirs.

These are the numbers that we (Statistics) have for the past five years for example. The discrepancy will be obvious to you.

Number of unique SCNs in our statistical data (includes National 2 to National 5,

Higher, Advanced Higher and Skills for Work; n.b: 'Pass' attainment included for National 2 to National 4 and Skills for Work attainment).

Year	A-C & P	A-D & P
2017	132,694	134,403
2018	129,302	131,806
2019	128,053	131,655
2020	133,209	134,468
2021	134,158	135,851

It's difficult in the timeframe (given that we lots to do today and tomorrow) to pull figures earlier than the past 5 years due to the change and joint running of qualification frameworks up to that time, i.e., Standard Grades, Access, and Intermediates.

This is clearly not impossible, but we do not have capacity to do this in the next 2 days. (Given how different our numbers are to actual number of certificates issued, I am not sure how useful this would be anyway.)

If you have been able to go back to 2014, you're doing much better than us. Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 09 August 2021 12:33

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Thanks.

I believe you have also been asked to provide historic numbers of passes in specific qual types (N5, Higher and Advanced Higher). Is that right? I have back to 2014, but not for earlier years.

■

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 09 August 2021 12:30

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi [REDACTED]

Operations colleagues have advised that the numbers below, include unique learners who:

- Attained an A-D on at least one graded National Qualification
- Attained a Pass for one or more ungraded NQs and/or 'Skills for Work'

Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 07 August 2021 19:09

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Importance: High

Herb,

Never straightforward, is it..? Hey ho.

The key thing here is to clarify exactly what the 136,845 figure in your table below represents. Is that:

- a) unique candidates receiving any certificate (be that NQs, Awards, NPAs or otherwise);
- b) Unique candidates receiving a certificate with an NQ award (A-D) on it;
- c) Unique candidates receiving a certificate with a pass (u/g pass or A-C) in an NQ; or
- d) Something else?

I had understood, given my original request that it was "a". But I see SQA's Learner Guide states that "more than 140,000 young people across Scotland will receive the results for their Nationals, Highers, Advanced Highers, and a whole series of other courses, certificates, and awards" which makes me suspect the numbers you provided represent something else.

This is a crucial piece of information for presenting these data next week. So, I'd be grateful if you could urgently clarify:

- i) What the 136,845 (and other figures) in the table below represents; and

ii) If the “more than 140,000” figure quoted is correct, then can you please clarify what that represents, and provide detailed figures for this year and previous years so we can assess whether it is the biggest/a record etc.

Sorry to pursue this, but hopefully you can see the importance/relevance. Cheers,

■

■■■■■■■■■■

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 07 August 2021 14:06

To: ■■■■■■■■■■@gov.scot>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi Mick,

An accurate picture pre-2017 might be tricky. Too long a story to explain by email.

In short however, Operations colleagues who send out certificates do not keep a record (pre-2017) of certificates issued.

We, in Statistics, do not know how many certificates are issued.

But we can pull the number of unique SCNs attaining at least one A-C grade at an NQ level in given years, as held in our statistics database.

This may not match the number of certificates issued however, due to additional data cleansing undertaken each year on the data stored in the Statistics databases.

For example, repeat entries from a Learner are removed from the statistics database if that repeat entry receives a lower grade than attained previously by that learner. However, that Learner is likely to get a certificate, in any case. (Hence the potential mismatch.)

Let me know if you want us (Statistics) to pull the number of unique SCNs attaining A-C across all NQ for you? If, so I can get one of my guys to look into this on Monday.

Herb

From: ■■■■■■■■■■@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 19:12

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Thank you Herb!

Not to be a total pain (sorry!!), but is there any chance you could provide equivalent for previous years – 2017 was a bit of a peak, I think, so if we are 40-odd only below that we can use it as a line wrt the strength of the system in place this year.

Ideally we'd like to know that there aren't any other similar peaks lurking in recent memory, but if we could at the least get back to 204 (when some of the new, CfE- based quals were introduced) that would be an ideal minimum.

Cheers ■

■■■■■■■■■■

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 17:51

To: ■■■■■■■■■■@gov.scot>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards Yes; one certificate per candidate.

And no; not the highest ever – from the data. (I don't know the provenance of any statements to the contrary.)

Regards, Herb

From: ■■■■■■■■■■@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 17:40

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Thanks Herb – so just to check a) it's one certificate per candidate and b) it is NOT the highest ever (as I think some had been given to believe)?

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Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 17:30

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: FW: Total numbers of entries and awards

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

The number you quoted is the number of certificates being issued by our colleagues in operations. Operations colleagues have given me the following 5 year figures for certificates being issued:

2017 - 136,889

2018 – 134,062

2019 – 133,089

2020 – 134,853

2021 - 136,845

Hope this helps. Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 17:14

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Importance: High

Any progress? I understand Fiona has been using the figures (c.137,000?) so I assume it must already be available..

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 13:43

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Hi [REDACTED]



In the interest of time, the (below) might help you. Entries and attainment for all NQ levels. (I will send unique no. Learners later for all NQ levels later.)

The table below shows overall entries for each National Qualification type. Table 1: Entries for each National Qualification type, 2017 – 2021

	Entries				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>SCQF level 2</b>					
National 2	2,184	2,011	2,070	2,077	1,896
<b>SCQF level 3</b>					
National 3	21,046	21,798	19,285	17,646	17,114
Skills for Work	37	30	13	11	15
<b>SCQF level 4</b>					
National 4	104,378	103,596	104,866	106,033	116,032
Skills for Work	3,233	4,089	3,698	3,601	3,767
<b>SCQF level 5</b>					
National 5	297,973	300,639	288,552	281,785	293,220
Skills for Work	10,107	10,291	8,023	6,632	6,126
<b>SCQF level 6</b>					
Higher	194,661	186,214	185,914	191,951	194,813
Skills for Work	247	222	204	264	433
<b>SCQF level 7</b>					
Advanced Higher	26,795	23,570	23,460	24,331	24,112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660,661</b>	<b>652,460</b>	<b>636,085</b>	<b>634,331</b>	<b>657,528</b>
Scottish Baccalaureate (SCQF level 7)	152	152	157	155	161

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) helps people to understand and compare different qualifications in Scotland.

#### Key Points

- The overall entries for National Qualifications numbered 660,661 in 2021. This is an increase of 8,201 on 2020.
- Entries at National 5 (SCQF level 5) have decreased by 2,666. Entries at Higher (SCQF level 6) have increased by 8,447 and Advanced Higher (SCQF level 7) have increased by 3,225.
- The Scottish Baccalaureate entries totaled 152 this year; no change from 2020.
- Entries at National 4 (SCQF level 4) numbered 104,378 in 2021. In 2020, the Recognising Positive Achievement (RPA) process for National 4 qualifications was removed. Entries for 2019 and previous years include those awarded through the RPA process.

The table below lists the attainment rates for each for each National Qualification type<sup>1</sup>.

Table 2: Attainment rates for each National Qualification type, 2017 – 2021

	Attainment Rate <sup>[1]</sup>				
	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>SCQF level 2</b>					
National 2	68.9%	75.5%	77.1%	79.7%	81.6%
<b>SCQF level 3</b>					
National 3	86.1%	91.5%	87.9%	91.5%	90.8%
Skills for Work	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	63.6%	100.0%
<b>SCQF level 4</b>					
National 4	86.1%	91.0%	88.5%	91.1%	92.8%
Skills for Work	66.6%	79.3%	77.6%	79.3%	79.2%

[1] For National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher the attainment rate is based on entries which have resulted in an A-C grade. For National 2 - National 4 and Skills for Work, which are all ungraded, the attainment rate is based on entries which have resulted in a pass.

<b>SCQF level 5</b>					
National 5	85.8%	89.0%	78.2%	77.4%	79.5%
Skills for Work	79.9%	86.4%	82.7%	86.0%	86.7%
<b>SCQF level 6</b>					
Higher	87.3%	89.3%	74.8%	76.8%	77.0%
Skills for Work	81.0%	76.6%	78.4%	81.4%	82.4%
<b>SCQF level 7</b>					
Advanced Higher	90.2%	93.1%	79.4%	80.5%	80.0%
Scottish Baccalaureate <sup>[2]</sup> (SCQF level 7)	91.4%	86.2%	69.4%	77.4%	85.7%

[1] For National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher the attainment rate is based on entries which have resulted in an A-C grade. For National 2 - National 4 and Skills for Work, which are all ungraded, the attainment rate is based on entries which have resulted in a pass.

[1] 'Distinction' or 'Pass' outcomes.

Herb

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 August 2021 12:32

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>; Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

Thanks Herb

I think this is missing most of what I requested:

- Nothing on awards either in overall volume or the unique number of candidates receiving them (this may differ from the numbers entered, of course);
- Only covers N5, H and AH, and not lower levels (or wider awards).

I can live with it covering NQs only, I think, but that has to cover all levels not just N5+. If we are to substantiate the points made yesterday about there being more people receiving awards than in the past we will need to see the figures to support that.

I appreciate you have a lot on your plate, but are you able to provide that a matter of priority?

■

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

[2] 'Distinction' or 'Pass' outcomes.

From: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 06 August 2021 12:15

To: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

For Mick\_060821.pptx

Hi [REDACTED]

The attached 2 slides have everything you need. Herb

From: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 05 August 2021 21:26

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Total numbers of entries and awards

I'm sure we can do that, [REDACTED]. We'll get back to you tomorrow.

B

Beth Black

Director, Policy, Analysis and Standards

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 August 2021 21:24

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk> Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Total numbers of entries and awards Importance: High

Hi Herb,

In the course of discussions following the SQA/SG call at 2.30 today, a number of folk felt it would be extremely helpful to have an overall number of entries and awards for 2021 (so, all qual types and levels combined) in comparison to the same for 2020 and 2019. Similarly, it would be helpful to know how many individual candidates are receiving awards.

We have, I am pretty sure, had those numbers in previous years (though I cannot recall whether we did in 2020).

Is this something you can provide us with during the course of Friday? Cheers

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director, Education Analysis

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A-C volumes 1999 \_ 2021.xlsx

From: Herb Castillo

Sent: 10 August 2021 09:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Beth Black <beth.black@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <john.booth@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: URGENT: Historic attainment

Importance: High

Updated table with AH numbers for 2001 and 2002 attached. Herb

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

Sent: 10 August 2021 08:47

To: Herb Castillo <Herb.Castillo@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: Beth Black <Beth.Black@sqa.org.uk>; John Booth <John.Booth@sqa.org.uk>;  
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: URGENT: Historic attainment

Importance: High

Herb, I need 2001 and 2002 data for AH asap. Number of passes please. They were introduced in 2001.

Could you send to this copylist please before 0930. Many thanks.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority