

NOTE OF MEETING BETWEEN THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS AND FIONA ROBERTSON CEO, SQA ON 26 MAY 2022

In attendance: Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Fiona Robertson, [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (SG), [REDACTED] (SG).

1. National Qualifications delivery

Ms Robertson reported that the exam diet had gone very smoothly to date with good feedback from centres and a clear direction on the part of the system as a whole to support learners. SQA had provided more support and engagement compared with a pre-pandemic exam diet to mitigate the risk of unfamiliarity caused by the disruption over the past two years. Feedback suggested that stakeholders considered the exams to be fair.

Ms Robertson noted the contingencies and scenario planning that SQA had undertaken to prepare for the risk of increased volumes of Exceptional Circumstances requests and appeals, and the additional resource associated with that preparation. To date, the number of exceptional circumstance requests have been within normal planning assumptions.

Operational guidance on appeals will be distributed to centres in the first half of next week. Communication with learners on appeals will follow in June. Grade boundary meetings commence on 6 June and end on 8 July.

Cabinet Secretary asked whether there was any early indication of how many appeals would be received. Ms Robertson indicated it was too early to tell – the earliest indication would be in late July.

Action 1: SQA to keep SG officials sighted on communications relevant to the exam diet in the run-up to Results Day.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Out of scope