

FOI 143

Request:

FOI request 1: The total number of students with conditional offers who were not able to secure a place [at university] in the current academic year

Not held.

FOI request 2: Copies of material regarding the meeting from before it took place (this would include communication about the upcoming meeting as well as documents such as briefings and analysis)

FOI request 3: Copies of any material (other than that already released to me) from during or after the event (this would include personal/handwritten notes, any other minutes, recordings, subsequent email exchanges etc)

Answers together below:

Index of attachments

Date	Enclosure	Title	Reference	Notes
9 Aug 2022		Letter to US re holding conditional places for students who appeal grades	1	Letter from Cabinet Secretary to Universities Scotland.
31 Aug 2022	1	FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals		Email exchanges
3 Nov 2022	3	Priority Appeals and Conditional HE Places for Students	2	Briefing paper
15 Dec 2022	6	Priority Appeals and Conditional HE Places for Students		Same as Ref 2

Enclosure 1 - FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

From: Fiona Robertson

Sent: 31 August 2022 16:20

To: Jean Blair; Rhona Wright

Subject:FW: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Categories: FOR INFO

Both

To see. I think the response from [REDACTED] is helpful.

Fiona

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 31 August 2022 16:17

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

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Fiona,

[REDACTED] and I have discussed this.

We recognise the need to have a clearer line with universities about adhering to UCAS deadlines- Scottish students should not be put at disadvantage through decisions of individual institutions.

While we need to do everything we can to manage the current year- we need to ensure that this does not happen next year.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 31 August 2022 11:42

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

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Jean Blair

<Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

I raised this issue with [REDACTED] at a meeting yesterday.

We are happy to be involved in a discussion. However, I think the focus needs to be on universities adhering to UCAS deadlines going forward.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 30 August 2022 17:47

To: Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean,

Just to confirm that [REDACTED] (Head of Head of Higher Education and Science Division) has made the calls (he is still awaiting a call back from [REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) later today) and fed back the following:

General message is universities are working hard to be as flexible as can on priority appeals.

Applicants should be keeping in touch with admissions offices.

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) term starts next week but they should be able to squeeze in any last people with appeal successes, they noted some of their popular health related/nursing courses are actually in clearing this year which is unusual following real high demand on such courses in previous years.

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) have said they can wait until after priority appeals decided in the case of most courses

The problem areas in [REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) are medicine, law and vet which may need a deferral place into next year as very high demand

Both these institutions said only small numbers relative to the overall number of applicants had contacted them to say they had appeal in with SQA (35 in [REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) case)

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii)) to call me back, will feed in any more if relevant from them.

Both [REDACTED] and we thought that a 'wash up' meeting later this month involving all parties concerned to discuss the issue and how it might be avoided in the future would be beneficial. Sound okay to you?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 August 2022 17:25

To: 'Rhona Wright' <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Thanks for confirming Rhona. We will ask colleagues to contact the three Scottish universities listed.

[REDACTED]

From: Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 25 August 2022 17:21

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

<Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi, as requested please see the list of Scottish HEIs below.

Rhona

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

Please note the following have also requested an earlier results date.

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

[REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 August 2022 17:11

To: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson

<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Apologies Jean – this is due to me picking up in [REDACTED] absence and not scrolling down!

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 25 August 2022 17:10

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

<Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Apologies [REDACTED], I thought you needed this information. The data on the universities was at the bottom of the email and therefore you needed more detail.

Rhona will re-send without this data.

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 August 2022 16:50

To: Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

I will delete this email as it contains personal information. Could you resend a list of relevant Scottish institutions.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 25 August 2022 16:47

To: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>

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

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean, as requested please see details on attached.

Rhona

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

Sent: 25 August 2022 14:38

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Thanks [REDACTED] we'd really appreciate this.

I'll get the details to you asap.

Regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]Reform@gov.scot>

Sent: 25 August 2022 13:32

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

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean

Just following up as [REDACTED] is hosting an away day – can you give us the specific Scottish HIEs to allow colleagues to make individual phone calls to those institutions.

You know the action we've taken already, but we're happy to underline the point.

Thanks

Regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 August 2022 17:14

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean,

Thanks for the update – as you say, significantly higher numbers than the planning assumption. Are there particular challenges you can foresee where we (SG) might be able to help? We are keen to do so if we can. For example, if there are any issues in getting sufficient appointees released within the necessary timescales etc

Happy to have a quick chat if helpful.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 23 August 2022 16:41

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

The planned number was 600 and we would normally be sitting around 400. So yes, the number is more than we planned for, but we have been working carefully through the numbers and on paper, have sufficient experienced appointees to turnaround these appeals to meet the UCAS deadline.

However, it probably goes without saying that it will remain challenging.

Regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 August 2022 16:16

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean

Thanks for confirming the numbers. I note that, understandably given the approach this year, they are substantially higher than in 'normal' exam years. Is this within the planned for numbers this year or do they cause any concern in terms of capacity to deliver within the current deadlines?

Best regards

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 22 August 2022 16:49

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay getting back to you today. I've been chairing meetings for most of the day. 1374 priority appeals were validated by centres by the deadline. 73 were still to progress and we have been chasing these today and I know making progress.

Please see below the contacts that have been made in relation to centres asking for early release of Priority Results before 5th Sept (6th sept via UCAS)

7 in total

Date of release requested Requests

31st August 5 (4 relate to [REDACTED] Uni, 1 [REDACTED] Uni) (redacted s30(b)(ii))

18TH August 1 [REDACTED] University) (redacted s30(b)(ii))

2nd September 1 [REDACTED] (redacted s30(b)(ii))

Kind regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 August 2022 12:05

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; Fiona Robertson <fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean

Further to our recent discussions, and now that the deadline for submitting priority appeals has passed, are you able to confirm what the final priority appeals numbers are, and whether you have managed to capture any intelligence on numbers of learners and their institutions where the timescales for issuing the outcomes may be an issue?

For information, I have just received a correspondence case this morning from the parent of a learner who is awaiting an appeal outcome for [REDACTED] University (**redacted s30(b)(ii)**), which has set a deadline of 2 September for their clearing decisions. While we have received a couple of general appeal queries, I am not aware of any other cases coming in to Scottish Government on this issue.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Head of National Qualifications Team, Education Reform Directorate, Scottish Government

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

Sent: 16 August 2022 10:22

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

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

That's correct, Fiona.

All awarding bodies negotiated an extra day with UCAS – it's a UCAS deadline.

Regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

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

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:57

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Thanks for this [REDACTED]

This is set in the context of an SQA timeline when in fact it's the UCAS deadline that we are all working to. Jean or I would be happy to discuss further with you and ALS colleagues if helpful.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 16 August 2022 09:19

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Morning Both,

Thanks for outlining the position. The letter that Cab Sec sent to Scottish universities last Tuesday is attached for info.

Best wishes

██████████

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

Sent: 16 August 2022 08:56

To: Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; ██████████@gov.scot>

Cc: ██████████@gov.scot>; ██████████@gov.scot>;
Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

██████████

I agree with Jean. I appreciate this is a sensitive issue, but the Scottish Government need to consider further engagement with the relevant Universities.

Happy to be involved in any further conversations, if helpful.

In the meantime, could we see a copy of the letter that the Cab Sec sent on this issue (last week)?

Would be helpful to see.

Many thanks.

Fiona

Fiona Robertson

Chief Executive

Scottish Qualifications Authority

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

Sent: 15 August 2022 16:32

To: ██████████@gov.scot' <██████████@gov.scot>

Cc: ██████████@gov.scot; ██████████@gov.scot; Fiona Robertson
<fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I hadn't appreciated that there was any doubt about this query when it was raised by [REDACTED] during our call. I thought I was clear that we could not process any urgent appeals earlier than the agreed date.

In this exceptional year for the appeals process, we have been clear that the ask of SQA to turnaround alternative evidence presents significant challenge for priority appeals. Under Post Results Service, we are already in receipt of the evidence to review. This is not the case this year.

I should also say that we sought the views of a broad range of stakeholders on the appetite of the system having to handle requests for appeals during their summer holidays. In fact, two local authorities don't return until after the closing date for appeals. The deadline for appeals is the same across the RoUK this year and we managed to negotiate an extra day with UCAS, the only means by which we share results with institutions.

We are dependent on centres to advise on conditional offers. SQA does not have sight of these ahead of the requests which centres have to validate at the same time as they submit their learners' evidence digitally. We don't know the volume of appeals at this stage and of course, release of appointees has still to be granted by centres. It would be foolhardy for SQA to commit to processing appeals from these three institutions with such unknowns. I would also be very concerned about SQA being seen to give priority to learners in those institutions over other institutions when we discussed and agreed the deadlines system-wide. As well as the significant logistical challenge and risk associated with trying to prioritise within priority, I think there would be perceptions of unfairness to other learners who are all anxious to secure their place.

There is already too much risk with this process and I would be very concerned about adding to this in the way suggested here. The turnaround will be more stressful this year because of the nature of the process, the need to assess alternative evidence and our dependency on appointee release – more so than in previous years.

As I said to [REDACTED] the system agreed to these dates and it needs Scottish Government colleagues to ensure that Scottish learners are not disadvantaged because of timescales outwith our control.

Copying in Fiona whom I know shares my concerns.

Regards

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 15 August 2022 15:56

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

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

Subject: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Jean

Following your conversation with [REDACTED] on Friday morning, is there any update on whether or not it would be operationally feasible for SQA to process and release the outcome of priority appeals relevant to conditional offers associated with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (**redacted s30(b)(ii)**) universities earlier than others (i.e. by 31 August rather than 5 September)? Is there a way of SQA even identifying learners whose priority appeals relate to conditional offers at these universities?

ALS colleagues are in contact with Universities Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and the individual institutions to try and ascertain the rationale behind the 31 August cut off. Ministers have been made aware of the issue.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

**

Enclosure 2 - FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals (2)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 November 2022 12:48

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Perfect, thanks very much.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 November 2022 12:15

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

I've now had confirmation that Universities Scotland colleagues are able to attend on Thursday. I have drafted an agenda and a summary background paper and will send this round this afternoon with a formal diary request.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 01 November 2022 12:12

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope that you are well.

Are we any further forward on this?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 October 2022 16:42

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

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Thanks [REDACTED]. I'll check with Universities Scotland reps and get back asap to confirm.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 24 October 2022 16:28

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for taking so long to get back to you.

I have checked all the relevant internal diaries and they all have holds for the proposed meeting on 3 November 2022 from 3.00-4.00 pm.

Hope this helps.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 October 2022 10:20

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

Subject: FW: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (out of scope) Not overly urgent but just sending on in case you are able to check relevant diaries today. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (out of scope)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

██████████, Head of National Qualifications Team, Education Reform Directorate, Scottish Government

From: ██████████

Sent: 24 October 2022 10:16

To: ██████████@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: FW: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi ██████████

Apologies, just back from leave and realised I didn't come back to you on the below. I have put a provisional hold in SG colleagues diaries for the 3rd November slot but still need to check with Universities Scotland reps whether they are available at that time. Before I do, can I check if that 3-4pm slot on 3 November is still ok with SQA colleagues or, if not, if there are any other potential slots?

Many thanks,

██████████

From: ██████████@sqa.org.uk>

Sent: 13 October 2022 15:58

To: ██████████@gov.scot>

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

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi ██████████,

Sorry for the delay in coming back to you. I have identified the following dates and times for my colleagues Jean Blair, Rhona Wright and ██████████ to meet:

Monday 24th 1-2pm

Monday 31st 11am-12noon or 3-4pm

Thursday 3rd Nov 3-4pm

Please let me know if any of these dates are suitable.

Kind regards,

██████████

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 October 2022 14:58

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Steve

Thanks for coming back on the below. Can I check which colleagues you were expecting to come back? I've not yet seen anything come through.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

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

Sent: 28 September 2022 19:48

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi [REDACTED]

Just acknowledging. I've asked colleagues to come back to you directly with some suggested dates.

Regards

Steve

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 28 September 2022 17:30

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: FOR RESPONSE: conditional places for students and priority appeals

Hi Steve

In relation to the e-mail exchange below, would you be able to have someone on your side check diaries with relevant SQA colleagues and confirm some potential dates for a discussion on HE deadlines for conditional offers and priority appeals timescales. This will allow me to check on availability with HE and SFC colleagues, following which we can pin down a date.

Conscious that relevant colleagues will be busy with the current appeals so, while good to get it in diaries, appreciate it may need to be a few weeks away.

Many thanks



██████████, Head of National Qualifications Team, Education Reform Directorate, Scottish
Government,

**** Chain below as Enclosure 1 ****

Enclosure 3 - Meeting invitation

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Required: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Jean Blair <Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk>; Rhona Wright <Rhona.Wright@sqa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;
[REDACTED]@st-andrews.ac.uk

Subject: Meeting with SQA and Universities Scotland about priority appeals and conditional offers

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Thu 03/11/2022 15:00

End: Thu 03/11/2022 16:00

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Please accept this diary request for an online meeting between Scottish Government officials, SQA and Universities Scotland to discuss timescales around priority appeals for the National Qualifications and HE deadlines for finalising conditional offers.

Outline agenda below and background paper attached.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Discussion of background (see paper)
3. Identification of potential solutions/mitigations
4. Any Other Business

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Head of National Qualifications Team, Education Reform Directorate, Scottish Government, Area 2B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

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Enclosure 4 - RE: Meeting with SQA and Universities Scotland about priority appeals and conditional offers

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 04 November 2022 16:16

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Jean Blair; Rhona Wright; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;
[REDACTED]@st-andrews.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Meeting with SQA and Universities Scotland about priority appeals and conditional offers

Categories: ACTION

Dear all

Many thanks for coming along to the discussion yesterday on ensuring the choreography of the appeals process after Results Day works for everyone, particularly the learner, and how we can improve things for next year.

Here are the actions I took from the discussion, please let me know if you disagree with anything:

[REDACTED] [SG]team to set up a follow-up meeting at the start of December, also involving UCAS;

[REDACTED]/SQA to unpack the timing issue of the appeals process as part of their evaluation work with HE over the coming months and feedback at the next meeting;

- Everyone should work together to ensure clear and consistent communication to learners about the appeals process and their role in keeping universities up-to-date if they have appealed their results;

- Everyone to consider what information can be shared at what points in the appeals process to ensure the process is as streamlined as possible for the learner and to be discussed at the next meeting.

If I have missed anyone off this email who was at the meeting, please do forward on.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Head of Senior Phase and OECD Curriculum Reform Unit | Curriculum and Qualifications | Education Reform Directorate | Scottish Government |

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Enclosure 5 – MEETING RE PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 18 November 2022 09:58

To: Jean Blair; Rhona Wright; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;

[REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@st-andrews.ac.uk

Subject:MEETING RE PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS

Good morning all

We agreed to set up a further meeting in December to look at the priority appeals process. Diaries are very busy but I have found a slot on Monday 12 December from 2.30-3.30. Colleagues from UCAS will also be invited to this meeting.

Could you please confirm whether you are able to attend on this date / time. [REDACTED] was also at the meeting but I don't seem to have contact details for her. Could you please forward this request on to her, and let me have her email address please.

I look forward to hearing from you. Have a good weekend.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Officer: Higher Education Governance and Quality | Scottish Government | DALs:
Higher Education and Science Division

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Enclosure 6 – PRIORITY APPEALS MEETING

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

To: [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@st-andrews.ac.uk;
[REDACTED]@ucas.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@ucas.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@ucas.ac.uk;
[REDACTED]@napier.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@napier.ac.uk; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Jean Blair
<Jean.Blair@sqa.org.uk [REDACTED]@sqa.org.uk>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: PRIORITY APPEALS MEETING

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Thu 15/12/2022 15:00

End: Thu 15/12/2022 16:00

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

15:00 Introduction and Overview – Scottish Government

15.10 Update on Evaluation of Appeals Process 2022-23 – SQA

15.20 Discussion on Managing Appeals/Applications Process for 2023-24 – All

15.55 AOB and close

In addition there were a few actions from the last meeting which Emma helpfully circulated following the meeting. These are below

- [REDACTED] [SG] team to set up a follow-up meeting at the start of December, also involving UCAS; (Done – [REDACTED] team taking on organisation)
- [REDACTED]/SQA to unpack the timing issue of the appeals process as part of their evaluation work with HE over the coming months and feedback at the next meeting;
- Everyone should work together to ensure clear and consistent communication to learners about the appeals process and their role in keeping universities up-to-date if they have appealed their results;
- Everyone to consider what information can be shared at what points in the appeals process to ensure the process is as streamlined as possible for the learner and to be discussed at the next meeting.

As per my email of 2 December. If those who are unable to attend would like to send a substitute, please let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

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Enclosure 7 – RE: PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS: MEETING THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 December 2022 10:11

To: Jean Blair

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS: MEETING THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Thanks Jean. I note what you say and I know that this is what you said at the last meeting.

See you on Thursday

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Officer: Higher Education Governance and Quality | Scottish Government | Lifelong Learning and Skills Division

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

Sent: 13 December 2022 10:08

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS: MEETING THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email.

I shall only be able to say that the evaluation is progressing and the plan is to advise on the appeals process late January/early February.

However, to be clear [REDACTED] there is nothing further that SQA can do about the date for reporting the outcome of priority appeals through UCAS. School holidays, volume, availability of appointees and time all play into the very tight window we have to consider requests. In short, universities will have to consider what they offer and the conditions/communications they send to learners in managing expectations about their admissions.

I hope this is helpful.

See you Thursday.

Jean

Jean Blair

Director of Operations

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 December 2022 09:52

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

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: PRIORITY APPEALS PROCESS: MEETING THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER

Hi Jean

Hope you are well. Ahead of the meeting on priority appeals on Thursday I just wanted to check that you are ok to give an update at the meeting on the Evaluation of the appeals process for 2022-23, and set out the timeframe for finalising the process for 2023-24.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Officer: Higher Education Governance and Quality | Scottish Government | Lifelong Learning and Skills Division

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