

From: [Media Enquiries](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RE: Exams and strikes
Date: 17 February 2023 16:55:00

Hi [REDACTED]

Here is our response which can be attributed to a SQA spokesperson:

“SQA fully understands the concerns around industrial action and its potential impact on learning and teaching in schools. The industrial action is a matter between teaching unions, COSLA and the Scottish Government. As the Scottish Government has made clear, it is leading contingency planning and SQA is playing its part in that work, which includes liaising with local authorities to understand the impact of action on their schools.”

-ends-

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@mail.com>

Sent: 17 February 2023 11:45

To: Media Enquiries <media.enquiries@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Re: RE: Exams and strikes

Thanks for acknowledging, [REDACTED]

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 at 11:09 AM
From: "Media Enquiries" <media.enquiries@sqa.org.uk>
To: [REDACTED]@mail.com>
Subject: RE: Exams and strikes

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your enquiry – we'll get back to you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@mail.com>

Sent: 17 February 2023 10:49

To: Media Enquiries <media.enquiries@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Exams and strikes

Hi there,

I hope you're all well.

I am writing a piece for the Scottish Mail on Sunday about exactly how exams will look for pupils this year in the event of strikes during the examination diet. The Education Secretary has written to all directors of education, asking that plans be drawn up to keep schools open if at all possible, and contingencies in the event they are not.

I understand the kinds of contingencies schools will have to look at include pooling resources between schools to have, say, one examination centre properly staffed so pupils from another school could also go there to sit their paper and opening schools to exam pupils with the help of non-school local authority staff. One source raised the possibility of having to move exams from strike days and trying to accommodate those exams elsewhere in the timetable, possibly leading to the diet being extended into June.

Can I please have a response on what the SQA is doing to prepare for what could be very significant disruption in the event a pay agreement is not reached? Is alteration of the timing of some exams (say if there was a strike on the day of the English or maths exams) being considered as a contingency?

If you could get back to me by the end of the day that would be great. If you could also let me know you have received this that would be really helpful.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]