

Message

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Sent: 27/02/2020 09:59:11
To: Woodward, Tom (OFM - Special Adviser) [tom.woodward@gov.wales]; [redacted] NR (SAED) [redacted] NR @gov.wales]
CC: Davies, Steve (EPS - Education Directorate) [steve.davies049@gov.wales]; Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) [claire.bennett@gov.wales]
Subject: FW: corona virus

Dear All

I have spoken this morning with Quals Wales about their contingency planning and we have weekly calls in going forward:

- Weekly contingency planning meetings are in place with DFE, QW, JCQ, the other regulators and awarding bodies – these were established for Brexit planning and have now been re-purposed to deal with coronavirus planning
- From next week a series of workshops are being held with regulators and awarding bodies to start working through operational details of different scenarios identified
- QW has established its own internal group to plan and prepare for the different scenarios and associated contingencies and has also updated its website with initial advice
<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/information-for-stakeholders/schools-and-colleges/guidance-covid-19-coronavirus/>

There are three main scenarios that have been identified and potential responses are being scoped:

- Small scale isolated cases – expectation these will largely be dealt with under existing procedures e.g. applying for special consideration for students adversely affected by any disruption or procedures in place already for learners who are ill during exam periods
- Large scale regional disruption – looking at potential changes to exam timetables (if learners complete at least 25% of an assessment they can have a mark calculated therefore considering spreading exam units out so that they don't all fall in the same 2/3 week period), prioritisation of certain exams, contingency exam papers that could be run at a later point in time to pick up those who weren't able to participate or those who might feel they were adversely affected
- National impact – technical workshops established to look at range of possible options to respond to this and plan accordingly – whole range of initial ideas currently being considered such as pushing back exams and results days, possibility of awarding on predicted results etc .

There are also a range of plans looking at disruption other than learners being able to sit exams for example availability of invigilators, submission and marking of coursework etc.

Just to note this is in addition to the contingency plans that have been enacted for the flooding - local arrangements being made for this with schools affected and WJEC building in Treforest affected but QW has confirmed that they have been provided with assurance that contingency arrangements have been put in place and there will be no impact on the summer exam series.