

Fiona Robertson
Chief Executive and Scotland's Chief
Examiner
Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building
58 Robertson Street
Glasgow G2 8DG

SENT BY EMAIL

fiona.robertson@sqa.org.uk

Monday 11 May 2020

Dear Fiona,

Guidance to schools and colleges about SQA awarding and certification process for 2020

Thank you for your letters of 23 April and 1 May in relation to your EIA of the awarding and certification model you are developing.

Having spoken to your colleagues on 1 May, we are left with some concerns as to how your EIA has been developed and used to inform your new process. As you know the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 require SQA to assess the equality impact of any proposed policy or practice

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E: lynn.welsh@equalityhumanrights.com

2nd Floor, 151 West George Street
Glasgow, G2 2JJ

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and to take account of the result of the assessment.

When we met with your colleagues on 1 May we were told that an EIA of the changes to the process of estimating grades was being done on an iterative basis. However, while an EIA is a living document, to be able to take account of the results of assessment it would need to be completed before your guidance was published.

Your colleagues agreed to send us the existing draft of the EIA, details of when this would be published and how the results of the EIA were used. We reiterated our offer of ongoing advisory support. On 6 May we asked again for this information. However, we have not yet received any response.

Without sight of your EIA, we have concerns as to whether the SQA has fully met its public sector duty requirements. Our focus continues to be on helping to ensure that fundamental issues of equality underpin the alternative certification model and the other policies and practices you will be developing. To that end it is of course important that the SQA meets its public sector duties.

I would be obliged therefore if you can send me by return the EIA which you used in your decision making and, to ensure transparency and openness, confirm that it will be published imminently. It would be helpful if you could respond by return.

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Please do phone if you would find it helpful to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

Lynn Welsh

Head of Scotland

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