

Appendix 1

Qualifications Wales
Q2 Building
Pencarn Lane
Imperial Park
Coedkernew
Newport
NP10 8AR

April 14th, 2020

Dear Mr Phillip Blaker

We are writing to you on behalf of our regional headteachers strategic forums.

Further to the recent Qualification Wales communication with secondary schools dated 3 April 2020, please note the following areas/aspects identified by head teacher colleagues from Ynys Môn, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham for exegesis and clarification:

- an urgent necessity for advice and guidance regarding syllabus and examination content for the current Year 10 and Year 12. This is essential to ensure schools are fully informed when planning and delivering distance learning strategies and models;
- by adhering to the use of comparable outcomes, there are mounting concerns that the GCSE brand is being protected to the detriment of individual pupil achievement;
- current lack of transparency around the statistical model being used for standardisation;
- an urgent requirement to effectively engage in professional dialogue with head teachers around the application of 'historical data' within the statistical model for standardisation;
- requirement for further guidance to stakeholders to fully understand the process of 'grade awarding' and the 'standardisation model'; and
- significant concerns that schools will be unduly exposed by the appeals process where standardised assessment grades are different to those initially awarded by the school.

We look forward with anticipation to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Bayley (Ynys Môn)
Ellen Williams (Gwynedd)
Trefor Jones (Conwy)
Claire Armitstead (Denbighshire)
Jane Cooper (Flintshire)
Chris Wilkinson (Wrexham)

Chairs of the North Wales Secondary Headteacher Strategic Forums