



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

Subject: Qualifications Independent Review 2020

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To make the Joint Committee aware of the Independent Review of the awarding of Qualifications in Wales during 2020.

2.0 Background

2.1 On Monday 17 August 2020, the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, confirmed that A level, AS, GCSE, Skills Challenge Certificate and Welsh Bacculaureate grades in Wales would be awarded on the basis of Centre Assessment Grades and would be making a further statement on an independent review of events following the cancellation of this year's exams.

2.2 At the Children, Young People and Education Committee, on 18 August 2020, the Education Minister stated that she would be commissioning an independent review of the arrangements for awarding grades for the 2020 summer exam series, and considerations for 2021. The review will be chaired by Louise Casella, Director of The Open University in Wales who has extensive experience in strategic roles in the education sector in Wales.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The review will consider key issues that have emerged from the arrangements which were put in place for this summer's exams, and the challenges resulting from the 2020 experience. The review will provide recommendations and considerations for approaches for 2021.
- 3.2. An interim report of key findings will be provided by the end of October, with a final report and recommendations to follow by mid-December.
- 3.3. Appendix 1 outlines the issues raised by the region in relation to the scope of the review, the process itself and the considerations in going forward.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1. The Joint Committee is asked to note the content of the paper and to ensure that it inputs into the independent review.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

- 6.1. There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

- 7.1. There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

- 8.1. GwE Management Board, GwE Joint Committee and Regional Secondary Executive Group of head teachers.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix 1 - Qualifications Independent Review 2020 – some issues to consider.
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OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I note that part 5.1 of the report above confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report. Consequently, I have nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.