

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Addysg**  
**Minister for Education**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref  
David Jones OBE, DL  
Chair of Qualifications Wales  
& Philip Blaker,  
Chief Executive Officer, Qualifications Wales  
Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane,  
Newport  
NP10 8UH

18 August 2020

Dear Philip and David

I am grateful for the support and advice that you and your officials continue to provide to me to ensure we have in place a robust and fair approach to enabling our learners' future progression.

Whilst I am confident in the approach that you have established in Wales, working alongside WJEC, given developments elsewhere in the UK I now believe that the balance of fairness lies with awarding Centre Assessment Grades to students, despite the strengths of our system.

As such, I am writing to you to update the Direction I provided to you on 6 April under Section 53 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 to have regard to the Welsh Ministers' policy regarding the cancellation of exams and the subsequent determination of grades. This reflects the revised policy approach that we believe is necessary to maintaining confidence in our qualification system whilst being fair to students during this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Addysg**  
**Minister for Education**

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 53 OF QUALIFICATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 WG20-42**

Under section 53 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015, Qualifications Wales must have regard to such aspects of government policy as the Welsh Ministers may direct.

A Direction by the Minister for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers, was issued to Qualifications Wales on 6 April regarding the Welsh Government policy that the summer 2020 cohort of GCSE, AS, A-level and Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate learners should be issued with results this summer following the cancellation of the summer exam series.

A policy statement by the Education Minister regarding the Welsh Ministers' policy that Centre Assessed Grades for A level, AS level, GCSE and the Skills Challenge Certificate should be awarded to learners who had their exams cancelled this summer has been made today and is available on the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/statement-minister-education-kirsty-williams>

Accordingly, the Minister for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers, directs Qualifications Wales to have regard to the following matters (which update the Direction provided on 6 April as varied by an Addendum on 14 August and the previous directions are revoked to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Addendum):

- the Welsh Government policy that learners are awarded their Centre Assessment Grades for GCSE, AS, A level and the Skills Challenge Certificate, except where grades already published or calculated are higher than their Centre Assessment Grade or in the case of A levels, their AS level grade is higher than their Centre Assessment Grade (see Addendum of 14 August). Where results already published are lower than the Centre Assessment Grade, Qualifications Wales must ensure that they are revised to reflect Centre Assessment Grade and new results published as soon as possible; and
- the Welsh Government policy that the appeals process is revised to reflect the awarding of Centre Assessment Grades.