



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State for Education
Department for Education

19 August 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Since A-level students received their results last week, [e-petition 306773](#), calling on the Government to review the decision to use previous data to calculate exam grades, has received over 144,000 signatures. At the same time, [e-petition 334491](#), which calls for students to be given the grades predicted by their teachers, has received over 30,000 signatures. Both petitions are now entitled to a response from the Government.

The significant support for these petitions underscores the intensity of feeling on this issue that we as MPs are hearing directly from affected students and parents in our constituencies. Ofqual's announcement that A-level and GCSE grades will now be awarded on the basis of grades predicted by their teachers will be welcomed by many, but there remain questions to be answered. Students, and their parents, universities and potential employers, should be given the confidence that their results are robust and fair.

In light of the time-sensitive nature of the requests made by these petitions, and with the 7 September deadline for students to meet university offer conditions fast approaching, I am writing to ask you for expedited responses to these petitions, setting out what action the Government is taking in response to the concerns expressed by these petitions. Petitioners, and the wider public, deserve clarity on the Government's position and its plans to ensure that students are not unfairly disadvantaged at such a crucial stage in their lives.

Best wishes,

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee