



Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

25 August 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to resign as Chief Regulator of Ofqual, with immediate effect.

In the absence of exams this summer, no solution could have perfectly determined what students would have achieved. Each of the countries of the United Kingdom independently implemented an approach based on statistical standardisation of teacher-assessed grades. Those approaches did not in the end command public confidence anywhere in the UK and I am truly sorry for Ofqual's part in the distress caused to students and their families in England this summer. It is important that lessons are learnt from what has happened, not just about the design of algorithms, but also about how they are used and how people feel about them as a fair way of making decisions. I will be happy to support efforts to learn from this summer's events.

I am proud of my team at Ofqual and the work we have undertaken collaboratively across the education sector during my tenure, including the implementation of reformed qualifications at GCSE and A-level. I also want to pay tribute to the extraordinary dedication that everyone in the organisation, and our colleagues in the Department for Education, have displayed over the last six months.

Delivery of next year's examinations against the background of the disruption that students have experienced will be hugely challenging, as will the implementation of T-levels and the development of other vital new and reformed technical and vocational qualifications. It will therefore be more important than ever to have a robust, expert independent regulator. In order to secure this I feel that I should step aside and allow new leadership to help the organisation face these challenges.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator