



**Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP**  
**Chair of the Education Committee**  
**House of Commons**  
**London**  
**SW1A 0AA**

21 October 2022

Dear Chair and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee last week.

During the session I committed to writing to you to provide information relating to errors in assessment materials this summer. As I said during the hearing, errors in assessment materials are unacceptable, and Ofqual will do everything in its power to continue to bear down on them.

### **Errors in GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2022**

Ofqual will publish final numbers of assessment material errors later this year in our GCSE, AS and A level Summer Report, following quality assurance of the information. However, I can share provisional figures with the Committee, which could change slightly as the final data is reviewed.

#### *Assessment material errors*

In 2022, across all GCSE, AS and A level assessment materials there were 58 errors, compared with 71 errors in 2019. As I said to the Committee, this is broadly a 20% reduction.

Ofqual is unable to provide this number as a proportion of the total number of question papers and other assessments produced this year, as that information is not yet available. Ofqual will publish it later in the year, as soon as it becomes available, as official statistics.

### *Errors in exam papers relating to the use of advance information*

In addition to those 58 assessment material errors, as I said to the Committee, there were two substantive errors in exam papers relating to the provision of advance information where the paper and advance information did not fully align. In both cases, the exam board awarded all students full marks for the affected questions.

For completeness, there were two other minor errors in exam papers reported by exam boards relating to the provision of advance information. In line with our expectations, the boards reviewed the potential impact on student performance. In one case the exam board concluded that the questions had functioned as intended and did not find any evidence of impact on student performance. In the other case, their analysis of student performance led the exam board to make an adjustment to one student's mark so they were not disadvantaged, and a small number of students received special consideration to address any potential confusion caused by the error.

There are no comparative figures for previous years as advance information was a novel arrangement for 2022.

### *Publishing information about this year's summer series*

Ofqual will publish a detailed report about the delivery of the GCSE, AS and A level summer series this year, including the confirmed number of assessment material errors, as we do each year. Ofqual expects to publish this report in December alongside official statistics on entries, access arrangements, special consideration, malpractice, and reviews of marking and moderation (some of which may be published in November).

It is important that we process and quality assure the data before publication, and the Committee will appreciate, I am sure, that this takes time, and such accuracy is essential in respect of our duty to uphold public confidence.

I hope the Committee will understand my caution in referring to information that might be included in an official statistics release. I take my responsibilities under the Code of Practice for Statistics very seriously and did not want to provide incomplete information to the Committee. I will write to you with a copy of Ofqual's summer report when it is published, but I trust that this information covers your key areas of current interest.

### **T Levels**

The Committee asked about the number of students affected by the issues with the Health and Science T Levels. I noted the figure was around 1,000. I thought the Committee would be interested in the specific data points here. There are three T Levels in the Health and Science route. NCFE issued results from the Core assessments within the Technical Qualifications to 914 students taking the Health T Level, 46 students taking the Healthcare Science T Level, and 155 students taking the Science T Level. In total, 1,115 students taking Health and Science T Levels received results for the Core component in summer 2022.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to put on record my thanks to all those working in education for the part they played in the successful resumption of examinations and formal assessments, which saw over one million students achieve more than 5 million qualifications despite the disruption caused by the pandemic. I would also be happy, of course, to provide any further information I am able to that the Committee may require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Saxton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**JO SAXTON, PhD  
CHIEF REGULATOR**