



Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
LONDON
SW1A 1AA

1 February 2021

Dear Mr Halfon

My predecessor, Dame Glenys Stacey, wrote to you on 18 December 2020.

Amongst other matters, Dame Glenys outlined that Ofqual was to establish a committee of its Board to oversee implementation of the policy decisions taken by Ofqual and the Secretary of State about qualifications to be awarded in 2021 and announced on 3 December. You questioned Dame Glenys on these arrangements on 9 December.

Dame Glenys was appointed as Chair of this committee to provide continuity between those decisions and the oversight of delivery and awarding of qualifications in 2021. Within these arrangements, strategically material decisions were always reserved to be taken by the Ofqual Board.

The announcements of the Prime Minister and Secretary of State in early January that examinations and many other assessments will not take place in 2021 as normal mean that the context has significantly changed. Decisions for the Ofqual Board related to qualifications to be awarded this year are now, and are likely to remain, strategically material and must properly reside with Ofqual's Board.

The Ofqual Board has therefore decided to wind up the 2021 Committee, a decision which has the full support of Dame Glenys.

Ofqual's Board and I share the view that this is the most effective way to ensure Ofqual is best placed to fulfil its role in regulating qualifications in 2021, in this new policy context.

I understand that you expect to invite me to appear before your committee shortly to consider the alternative arrangements to be in place for qualifications in light of the government's decisions and on which we have recently consulted jointly with the Department for Education. I look forward to the scrutiny of the committee on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Simon Lebus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Simon Lebus
Chief Regulator