

## Written evidence submitted by Freya Jones

November 2020

Dear members of the Education Committee,

My name is Freya Jones, and I'm an A Level student at a state sixth form in Devon.

Having already submitted a statement containing my personal views, I am now **writing on behalf of others** with regard to the following term of reference:

- The effect of cancelling formal exams, including the fairness of qualifications awarded and pupils' progression to the next stage of education or employment.

Following Wales' decision (on 10<sup>th</sup> November) to cancel GCSE and A Level exams for summer 2021, I spoke to several young people who, like me, would stand to be affected if a similar decision is made in England. I did this both in person and via surveys on my Instagram account.

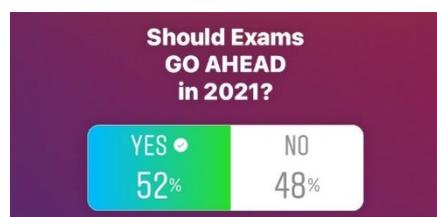


Figure 1

The results of my surveys are as follows, and I hope the Committee finds them informative:

#### 1) Should Exams Go Ahead in 2021?

52% Yes  
48% No  
(65 surveyed)



Figure 2

#### 2) When Would You Rather Do Exams?

32% April  
68% July  
(67 surveyed)



Figure 3

#### 3) Does Your Establishment's Record Reflect YOUR Abilities?

26% Yes  
74% No  
(65 surveyed)



#### 4) Are You Comfortable To Be Judged By Your Teachers?

63% Yes  
37% No  
(66 surveyed)

Those surveyed include students from both state and private schools, from multiple counties. I have also received several personal messages from my contemporaries about the cancellation of exams. For the purposes of this statement, I will keep these individuals anonymous, but key points were as follows:

- Some students are concerned that teachers would discriminate against them in the event of classroom assessment.
- Some students are worried that decisions of the Welsh devolution will have undue influence over educational policy in England.
- Several university students / 2020's A Level cohort have expressed regret at being unable to do their own examinations fairly. They hope that things will return to "normal" for the 2021 cohort, as well as saying that such is essential for the function of universities.

Learners require clarity in order to set themselves effective academic goals.

If the Department for Education could therefore issue a statement about formal exams in 2021 as soon as possible (hopefully in favour of them going ahead), then I would be very grateful.

I look forward to following the Committee's progress, and thank you again for your consideration.

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