

Written evidence submitted by Kate Baxter

As a home educator, I am concerned that Sally Collier's statement to the committee overstated the support given to private candidates.

"...we then worked very quickly with exam boards to get some additional centres, just specifically dealing with private candidates ... I very much hope that the majority of private candidates will be able to progress as they intended."

The actual number of 'some additional centres' was two, as far as I am aware, and both of these centres were soon swamped by the numbers of home educated private candidates who were in a desperate situation after their exam centres withdrew their exam entries at the last minute. The limited number of centres willing to work with private candidates meant there was insufficient capacity for the total number of private candidates, and many were turned away, and will therefore not receive a grade.

I hope the committee will ask how she can be hopeful that the majority of private candidates will be able to progress.

- How and by whom is this information being measured?
- What will be done if, in fact, the majority are not able to progress?
- And, even if a minority, what will be done to assist those private candidates who have been unable to obtain grades at this exam sitting?
- What special provision will be put in place to ensure these home educated students will be able to obtain grades at future sittings given that schools will already be struggling to make socially distanced space for their own candidates, and given that there are so few dedicated centres for private candidates?

Thank you for your consideration,

A concerned parent

June 2020