Secondary curriculum and exams.

The sqa has sadly devalued the ethos and quality of the sqa qualifications because of the need to recruit (teaching) staff as setters and markers/verifiers who have insufficient experience to do so, this unfortunate circumstance brought about by the ever increasing workload placed on more able/experienced staff.

Eg Have all exam setters taught at the level they set for? Are they required to??

The system of using existing teaching staff as the backbone of the assessment system has an inherent conflict with the teaching commitment that each has to their school, and in to remuneration of staff and school.

It is unfortunate that the curriculum for excellence... not called that in the secondary staff rooms....... was ill thought and introduced without proper evaluation of the unnecessarily complicated exam system, with assessment overload the result for secondary staff, notwithstanding the laughable woolly outcomes and lack of quality guidance for them.

Why was it driven through despite all and many misgivings that were written about it?

Experienced and very professional staff were pulling their hair out to try to get courses developed and evaluated.

Politics would do well to listen occasionally to teaching staff and the unions.

Sandy Cunningham
Recently retired promoted secondary teacher.