



Scottish Qualifications Authority  
Ùghdarras Theisleanas Na H-Alba

Mr S Dempsey  
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Our Ref: GS/AH  
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Contact: Dr Gill Stewart  
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Dear Mr Dempsey

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2017 addressed to our Chief Executive. Dr Brown has asked me to respond on her behalf as issues relating to exam papers fall within my Directorate.

I would like to reassure you that the decision taken this year to delay the release of surplus exam papers to teachers was made to try and support pupils and students during what is a difficult and stressful time for them. We were previously made aware of significant distress caused to pupils and parents due to individuals posting the answers to questions on social media during the time candidates are sitting the examination.

We have, for many years, instructed Chief Invigilators to transfer any surplus question papers to the centre only at the end of the exam day. This, as you mention, was to minimise any potential security issues surrounding coincident exam schedules and is still applicable.

As with all our Diet-related policies and procedures, we will be reviewing this policy for next year and I will ensure your views are fed into this process.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gill Stewart  
Director of Qualifications Development

Cc: James Dornan MSP  
John Swinney MSP  
Larry Flanagan