



Department
for Education

Qualifications Division
Qualifications, Curriculum and Extra-Curricular Directorate
Early Years and Schools Group
2nd Floor
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

22nd February 2021

Dear Mr Maitland,

Re: 2020 0042783

As you will recall, on 11th August you requested under the FOI Act:
“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide a copy of all correspondence (including emails) and written directions between the Department for Education and: (a) Ofqual (b) Examination Awards Bodies (e.g. AQA, Cambridge Assessment) Between 4 August 2020 and 10 August 2020”.

On 22nd January I indicated that we hoped to provide you with a response by 22nd February 2021, and that if it appeared that it would take longer to reach a conclusion we would let you know. I am afraid that a further delay will indeed be necessary and I am therefore writing to let you know and to explain the reasons for this.

Given the large amount of information and complexity of some of that information in respect of which exemptions are, or appear likely to be, engaged we estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to reach a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies, and to provide you with a full reply. I apologise for the fact that this is later than originally planned, but we hope now to let you have the response by 22nd March 2021. I do hope that you will understand that this delay is simply due to the fact that the Department is trying to fulfil your request in a conscientious and thorough manner. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, we will keep you informed, and if it is possible to provide you with a substantive response sooner we shall of course do so.

The Department takes its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act very seriously, and always seeks to respond to enquiries openly and fully in the spirit of the Act. But if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to us quoting the reference number above.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints/review procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Qualifications team

Qualifications.CORRESPONDENCE@education.gov.uk