

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 September 2012 14:54
To: 'Jeremy BENSON (jeremy.benson@ofqual.gov.uk)'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: E-petitions re GCSE English
Attachments: Petition Id - decisions (2).docx

Jeremy

FYI

We have received around 30 e-petitions to date about GCSE English and are currently moderating them.

Here are our decisions on a first batch – as you'll see a couple of them, calling for a public/independent inquiry and for a parliamentary debate, are for publication.

We'll keep you posted

[REDACTED]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]
Petition title: GCSE English Language Grading

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 03-09-2012 13:44

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

There is year on year grade inflation both in GCSE and A levels. However to allow what has happened this year (2012) in GCSE English Language which was to change the grading criteria on the final leg of a two year unit is nothing short of recklessness. I want to call for a public enquiry. There is nothing what-so-ever wrong in increasing standards and also raising the bar of achievement, but this must be done at the start of the two year course for GCSE and A levels so that students are fully aware of what is expected and required to gain the required grades. Education in this country is based on the principle that students should be given a fair chance at the assessments and this means told what is expected on enrolment of the course. I don't mean teach to the assessment, rather what is expected in meeting the given learning outcomes and how it will be graded. I want a public enquiry and any wrong doing to be corrected for our young people affected by this problem.

Duration: 3 months

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]
Petition title: Set up an inquiry into the fairness 2012 GCSE marking

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 25-08-2012 07:54

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

Set up an independent inquiry into the fairness of the 2012 GCSE marking. Examine the concerns of Head Teachers, parents and most of all pupils. The inquiry should look at the marking process and all associated grading practices, factors directly and indirectly influencing the process, communications between examining boards and schools. The inquiry recommendations should discuss ways of improving the process. clarity and communications around the exams and marking process.

Duration: 3 months

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: GCSE English Exam changing the marking boundaries [REDACTED]

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 25-08-2012 09:23

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

In the GCSE English examinations of Summer 2012 - the exam boards responsible for marking the papers have raised the marking boundaries without consultation and after the actual examination was sat. This has had an adverse affect of the results for both the schools and the pupils, which in turn has had a detrimental effect on the pupil's application for further education. English is a core subject and it is essential for many students to attain a C grade or above. By changing the marking criteria the teachers have not been allowed to review their teaching methods to enable more students to achieve this mark. An independent inquiry needs to be opened to review this as the cost of these student re-sitting exams, appeals will both be expensive and time consuming, and potentially affect these students for the rest of their lives. Any changes should be consulted and put in place at the beginning of the school year, goalposts CANNOT be moved.

Duration: 6 months

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others] [REDACTED]

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 25-08-2012 19:43

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

This years results in GCSE subjects, but in particular English, where grading has not been consistent with earlier exams, has put some pupils in a difficult position and they may not be able to get the College position or other appointments that were dependent on their results. The government should call for an independent inquiry to review what occurred and ensure fairness for those that took exams this year and that we do not have a similar fiasco in future years. We cannot allow individuals futures to be adversely affected by poor marking of exam papers or manipulation of final grades, all need to aware of the system prior to taking exams. It is not fitting for the UK government to be involved in this disgraceful fiasco and we need an independent inquiry to ensure this does not re-occur in future years. An independent inquiry into how the system was managed this year should be appointed immediately.

Duration: 3 months

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: Investigate GCSE English Grading Scandal [REDACTED]

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 05-09-2012 20:54

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign] [REDACTED]

Petition description:

The public, headteachers, schools, colleges, unions and local authorities are calling for an urgent independent investigation into the GCSE English grading debacle. By grading students inconsistently for the same exam, awarding bodies have failed in their duty to maintain standards in the exam system. The grading errors will have massive implications for both students and schools. Ofqual has so far failed to take any responsibility for the GCSE debacle and to hold the awarding bodies to account. Dismissing the grading inconsistencies as "luck", it stated that it was "regrettable" that grade boundaries were moved to such a large extent mid-year, and labelled schools' and parents' very real concerns as "myths". This is not acceptable. Ofqual's failure to act undermines parents' and students' confidence in the exam system. We call on the Government to launch an urgent independent investigation, so that thousands of students are not left paying for the mistakes of others.

Duration: 3 months [REDACTED]

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: Inquiry into unfair GCSE English results - JUNE 2012

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 07-09-2012 23:42

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

We, the undersigned, support the raising of standards and rigorous examination but it must be done in a structured and coherent manner. The bar for a Grade C in GCSE English this June was raised, we feel, unfairly - after the exams were actually taken. We regard the interim report by Ofqual as a "whitewash" and therefore demand an independent public inquiry into the marking and grading of GCSE English exam papers taken in June 2012.

Duration: 6 months

[Publish if this was the first call for a public/independent inquiry; otherwise reject as substantially a duplicate of others]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: GCSE grading changes [REDACTED]

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 07-09-2012 11:49

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

We require a Parliamentary debate on the 2012 GCSE altering of grade boundaries by Ofqual.

Duration: 12 months

[Publish]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: GCSE Unfair Marking in 2012

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 24-08-2012 18:03

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

Why make students taking GCSE's in 2012 suffer from harsher marking than those who sat in 2011! It is ridiculous that this year's students end up with poorer grades because someone decides to move the goal posts. If a fundamental change is required then this should be carried out, do not just tinker!! It is wrong students who would have gained a Grade C in 2011 fail to do so in 2012!!

Duration: 3 months

[Reject - no call for action]

Petition Id: [REDACTED]

Petition title: Government changes the GCSE'S grade boundaries at the last minute

Creator: [REDACTED]

Created date: 23-08-2012 09:32

Department: [Department for Education V] [Re-assign]

Petition description:

Why can't the government leave well alone. Dropping the grade boundaries at the last minute. Do they not realise this effects and entire year group of children. Employers are not going to know this is the year the messed up yet another range of children.

Duration: 12 months

[Reject – no call for action]

