

[REDACTED]

From: Glenys Stacey <Glenys.Stacey@ofqual.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 September 2012 22:37
To: [REDACTED] (OfE official)
Subject: Re: BRIEFING FOR SOS ON GCSES/EDEXCEL/WALES

Thank you [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:30 PM (OfE officials)
To: Jeremy Benson
Cc: Glenys Stacey; Cath Jadhav; [REDACTED] (Ofqual officials)
Subject: BRIEFING FOR SOS ON GCSES/EDEXCEL/WALES

Thanks for keeping us updated on this - I have shared the letter with the SoS's Private Office and passed on Glenys's offer of a conversation about it. Will keep you posted.

And can I also take this opportunity to say a very warm thank you to you, Cath, [REDACTED] for the help in fielding our requests for info today for briefing the SoS, all to very tight deadlines.

All good wishes

[REDACTED]

11 September 2012

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Dear Kate

GCSE English Language

Thank you for your letter of yesterday to Glenys, sharing with us the report of your investigation into GCSE English Language qualifications to be awarded this year to candidates in Wales. We note that your Minister has now also issued a direction to WJEC.

Ofqual's priority is to secure the standards of the qualifications we regulate. The majority of candidates who took WJEC's GCSE English Language this year are based in England, and those candidates are our main concern. But the standard should be one and the same for all students, regardless of where they live. And we do not agree that the qualification should be re-graded, because the evidence we have seen does not justify this.

As we have said publicly, we will need to consider your report in detail, because of the significance of the recommendations. We have been considering in particular whether WJEC can simultaneously meet the requirements of both your direction and our Conditions of Recognition. There are serious consequences if it cannot.

We would therefore like an urgent, senior level meeting so that we can consider your report, the direction to WJEC and the implications for the standard of the qualifications and for public confidence in them. There are also wider issues we will need to discuss about future regulatory approaches and the implications for all awarding organisations that offer qualifications in both Wales and England. I hope we will be able to arrange a meeting this week.

