

23 April 2012

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Dear Anne Marie

Maintenance of GCSE and GCE standards meeting – 21 May 2012

We scheduled this meeting as part of our on-going commitment to agree principles for our collective approach to maintaining standards. Unfortunately all Ofqual staff are required to attend an important internal event on 21 May. As finding a suitable replacement date will be very problematic, I suggest we conduct our business by other means.

Summer 2012 data exchange

The guidance and templates are close to being finalised. Following a final discussion with your technical colleagues at STIG on 16 May we will circulate a final version and write to you setting out our regulatory expectations for the summer series.

New GCSE Science qualifications

We have made good progress with your colleagues about the prediction matrix to use this summer. STAG will present its latest work at the May STIG meeting and we hope to agree an approach then. This approach will form part of the data exchange guidance. If any responsible officer-level communication about GCSE Science is needed prior to signing off the guidance, we can do this by letter or email.

Maintenance of GCSE and GCE standards beyond 2012

I propose that we discuss the wider issues around comparable outcomes beyond 2012 at a maintenance of standards meeting later this year, probably in November or December as in previous years.

Scrutiny findings

We can also use this meeting to consider how we share issues arising from scrutiny findings that would benefit from joint regulator and awarding organisation discussions.

I apologise for cancelling the meeting. Do let me know if you think we need a different approach from that we are proposing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dennis Opposs', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Opposs
Director of Standards

cc Roger McCune (CCEA), Cassy Taylor (Welsh Government)