

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1228
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11595/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

18 November 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 5 November drawing my attention to Petition P-06-1228 entitled "Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments".

I recognise, and am extremely grateful for, the ongoing efforts and commitment of all teachers and lecturers across Wales, as they balance competing priorities to ensure the wellbeing of and support for the progression of learners. These collective efforts were vital in supporting the delivery of centre-determined grades and ensuring our learners were ready to confidently transition to their next steps in education, employment or training.

As you know, in response to the challenges of the pandemic, it became necessary to cancel examinations for the summer 2021 exam series and to develop alternative assessment arrangements for award qualifications. The Centre Determined Grade (CDG) model was subsequently developed in partnership with headteachers and college principals, through the Design and Delivery Advisory Group.

As part of the development and subsequent delivery of CDGs a range of support was provided, including detailed guidance, the provision of exemplar materials and templates via both Hwb and WJEC's secure site, professional learning via WJEC and flexibility to utilise the summer term Professional Learning INSET day for the CDG process.

Alongside this, additional funding was made available from the Welsh Government to assist practitioners to engage with professional learning and to support learner progression with the creation of a dedicated package of transition support – this included flexibility to support delivery of the CDG process including administering the appeals process. Steps were also taken to create further capacity within the system by removing some statutory requirements in order to reduce the administrative burden on centres for example, removing the end of key stage assessments and associated moderation requirements.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

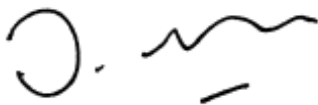
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In recognition of the enhanced role of schools and colleges in delivery grades this summer, WJEC reduced its fees by 42% which released a further £8 million to schools and colleges. In addition to this, and recognising the extensive work of teachers and lecturers, the Welsh Government contributed an additional £1.6 million to enable an overall reduction to 2021 WJEC fees of 50%. This released an additional £9.6million of funding for schools and colleges, with the flexibility to utilise that funding to best meet their local needs and circumstances. It was my hope that centres would be able to use this additional funding not only to support learner progression but also to support staff and learner wellbeing.

I think it is also important to note that, in contrast to the arrangements elsewhere in the UK, Wales' CDG model and the appeals process in particular, was intentionally designed to enable teachers and lecturers to undertake the vast majority of their role during term time. This was a conscious effort to preserve the summer holidays which we recognise is an important opportunity for Wales' education profession to take a well-earned rest and period of reflection and preparation before the next academic year.

I hope the above recap of the delivery of centre determined grades in 2021 and the wider support that was provided to the education profession is helpful. Thank you again for bringing this petition to my attention. I would like to reiterate my gratitude for the collective efforts of the education sector in supporting learner well-being and including all those who played a role in delivering centre determined grades.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language