

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/KW/1259/20  
David Jones OBE, DL  
Chair of Qualifications Wales

[dbj1962@gmail.com](mailto:dbj1962@gmail.com)

Philip Blaker,  
Chief Executive Officer, Qualifications Wales

[Philip.blaker@qualificationswales.org](mailto:Philip.blaker@qualificationswales.org)

24 April 2020

Dear Philip and David

Following previous correspondence about the cancellation of the summer 2020 GCSE and A level examinations, my officials have been working with Qualifications Wales colleagues as they determine an approach to awarding vocational qualifications for the cohort of learners who were due to complete vocational qualifications over the same period.

The purpose of this letter is to issue you with the enclosed Direction under Section 53 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 to have regard to the Welsh Ministers' policy regarding the cancellation of exams and the subsequent determination of grades.

I appreciate the complexities of devising an approach that can meet the wide range of vocational qualifications, awarding organisations and learner circumstances; and I am very grateful for the significant amount of work that the Qualifications Wales team has devoted to working with its UK counterparts over the last few weeks to progress this.

The key priorities for both the Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales must be to minimise disruption for learners and enable them to progress to their next stage of learning and employment, wherever possible. My goal is for these learners to be treated equally to their peers studying GCSEs and A levels, as set out in the policy and direction issued on 6 April 2020. I acknowledge, however, that this will not be possible or indeed appropriate in every case, and my officials will continue working with you to identify and support those learners who need to complete their studies and assessments at a later date.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

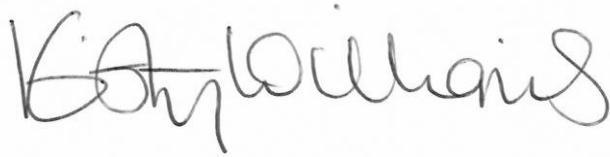
[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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.

A copy of this letter and accompanying direction will be published on the Welsh Government's website. Please continue to keep me informed, through officials, of progress in implementing the policy set out in the direction.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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