



Sue Webber MSP  
Convener  
Education, Children and Young People Committee  
By email: [ecyp.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:ecyp.committee@parliament.scot)

09 August 2022

Dear Ms Webber

Today, nearly 138,000 learners across Scotland will receive their Scottish Qualifications Certificates. I know you and your colleagues on the Education, Children and Young People Committee will want to join SQA and Scotland's education community in celebrating their achievements.

Results day is a major milestone in the life of any young person. The achievements of this year's learners – one of the strongest ever sets of results overall in an exam year – are made all the more impressive against the ongoing disruption they have faced in every aspect of their lives as a result of the global pandemic. Their dedication and resilience deserve our recognition.

To help you mark this important day and support Scotland's young people, I am pleased to share with you information about today's results and the help and support that is available to young people as they make their next steps in education, training or employment.

### **2022 Results Day**

Learners will be receiving their results by post today and those who signed-up for and activated their MySQA account will also be receiving their results by text and/or email from 8am this morning.

Together with Nationals, Highers and Advanced Highers, learners will be achieving a wide range of Skills for Work courses, Awards, National Certificates and National Progression Awards, which are part of a broadening of the curriculum and support a range of initiatives such as Developing the Young Workforce.

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Chairman: David Middleton CBE  
Chief Executive: Fiona Robertson

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We are a Corporate Parent, and SQA colleagues and their families, representatives of Who Cares? Scotland, MCR Pathways and the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, will be sending a congratulatory video message to all care experienced young people to recognise their success in their SQA courses and awards.

While the significantly different circumstances and awarding processes of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 do not allow for meaningful comparison or for conclusions to be drawn on changes in education performance, this year's learners have achieved a strong performance overall, and one of the strongest to date in an exam year.

National 5	Higher	Advanced Higher
<b>310,170</b> entries	<b>188,220</b> entries	<b>28,220</b> entries
A-C attainment rate <b>80.8%</b>	A-C attainment rate <b>78.9%</b>	A-C attainment rate <b>81.3%</b>
A attainment rate <b>40.3%</b>	A attainment rate <b>34.8%</b>	A attainment rate <b>33.7%</b>

For those who feel that they did not get the results they expected, our free direct appeals service is now open. Our advice is for learners or their parents and carers to speak to their school, college or training provider in the first instance if they have concerns. They are best placed to address any concerns and provide their learners with advice and support.

### Support for learners

- SQA's Appeals 2022 service is free of charge and opens at 9am today. More information has been sent to learners' homes and is available at [sqa.org.uk/appeals](https://sqa.org.uk/appeals)
- If learners have a query about their certificate, they can call SQA's Candidate Advice Line on 0345 279 1000
- Skills Development Scotland's Results Helpline: 0808 100 8000
- UCAS: 0371 468 0468 /Clearing resources can be found at [ucas.com/clearing-launch](https://ucas.com/clearing-launch)

The national attainment statistics and further information about how the qualifications were awarded can be found at:

- [Provisional Attainment Statistics \(August 2022\)](#)
- [SQA Chief Examining Officer's 2022 National Qualifications and Awards Results Report](#)
- [Grade Boundaries 2022](#)
- [Component Marks 2022](#)
- [Assessment Arrangements 2022](#)
- [National Qualifications 2022 Methodology Report](#)
- [2022 Awarding: Equalities Monitoring Report](#)
- [SQA Press Release](#)

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## **How results were arrived at in 2022**

On 17 August 2021, the Scottish Government confirmed a return to formal external assessment (exams and coursework) for National Qualifications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher for the first time since 2019. This came after the adoption of certification models based on alternative approaches to assessment in 2020 and 2021, as learning and teaching together with all of society was disrupted by the global pandemic.

However, the 2021-22 session was not a return to 'normal'. In the best interests of learners, it was clear to SQA that measures continued to be needed to address the disruption to learning and teaching that young people continued to experience, while maintaining standards. It was also recognised that this ongoing disruption, impacting now on a third academic year, and the absence of formal exams for two years was likely to affect learners' acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding and their performance in SQA national assessments, including formal exams.

SQA worked with partners across the education sector, including teachers, lecturers, learners, parents and carers, throughout the year to agree the wide-ranging package of support that was put in place. The approach was also informed and agreed by the National Qualifications 2022 Group, which has membership from across Scotland's education system.

This support was designed to be flexible to the changing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and would help to enable learners to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do, despite the disruption to learning.

The wide-ranging package of support for learners included:

- Course assessment modifications to reduce the volume of assessment and ease learner and teacher workload – for example, removing or reducing elements of an exam or coursework
- An exam exceptional circumstances service to ensure learners who could not attend an exam for reasons such as bereavement or illness, including COVID-19, could have their alternative evidence considered and still receive a grade today
- Online advice, revision support and learner support from across the sector – including Education Scotland, schools, colleges and local authorities
- A more generous approach to grading exams
- A free appeals service that enables learners to appeal directly to SQA or through their school, college or training provider

Every year, SQA's role is to evaluate performance in assessments in an equitable and fair way, while ensuring standards are maintained so that qualifications remain credible – and this year was no different. Learners' demonstrated attainment – the proof or evidence of a learner's knowledge and skills in a course measured against the required national standard – is at the core of our approach.

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Thousands of practising teachers and lecturers are at the heart of the awarding process every year – they set the assessments (exams and coursework), mark them, train their peers, are involved in setting the grade boundaries and in the appeals service – teacher and lecturer judgement and expertise are what the whole process and results are based on.

In conclusion, learners can be confident that the qualifications they receive today are credible and fair, and reflect the knowledge, understanding and skills they have acquired in challenging circumstances. Universities, colleges and employers can also be confident that standards and integrity have been maintained in 2022.

I hope you have found this update useful and that it equips you with information that means you can play your part in supporting and celebrating young people across Scotland at this important milestone in their lives.

I look forward to joining you at Committee in September.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Robertson  
Chief Executive and Scotland's Chief Examining Officer