



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

John Wilkes
Head of Scotland

Kenny Stewart
Head of Policy

Equality Human Rights Commission
(EHRC)

By email only—

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21 September 2023

Dear John and Kenny

I am writing on behalf of the Education, Children, and Young People Committee.

The Committee held its annual evidence session with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) on Wednesday 12 September 2023. The official report of that meeting can be found [here](#).

The session was an opportunity for the Committee to explore the administration of the 2023 exam diet and certification of learning in schools.

The Committee is aware that in 2021, you used your powers under section 23 of the Equality Act 2006 to [reach a legally binding agreement with SQA](#) following concerns of equality breaches.

The Committee understands that under this agreement, SQA is obligated to abide by the Equality Act 2010 and meet its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which entails completing consistent Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs) for its current policies and practices over the next two years.

The Committee recognises that this agreement is coming to termination soon and is alert to the changes that SQA has made to its exam appeals model, which it expects to remain the standard for years to come.

Against this background, the Committee is keen to hear from you about whether EHRC believes that the concerns it raised in 2021 have been addressed by SQA and whether you believe that SQA is now consistently conducting EqIAs to a high standard, particularly given all the changes that it has made this year.

The Committee would welcome a response to this letter by **Friday 13 October 2023**.

Kind regards

Sue Webber MSP

Convener