



By email

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

28 January 2022

Dear Mr Sargeant,

**Petition P-06-1228 Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardising summer 2021 official assessments**

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the committee in relation to the above petition, asking about the findings of our survey on grade setting. Following summer 2021, we have been gathering information on teachers' perceptions of the centre determined grading process. Our survey and interviews have focussed on gaining a deeper understanding of how the centre determined grading framework was used, teacher experiences of and opinions on the process (including the manageability of it), confidence in the outcomes and views on how the approach could be improved. The interviews following the survey have now concluded and we are expecting to publish the research report in May.

During this research project and in our stakeholder engagement work over the last two years, we have had feedback on increased workload and heard similar concerns to those set out in the petition. We also heard concerns that, in pre covid times, some teachers had the opportunity to undertake paid work for the awarding body, for example as examiners, and that they had lost income that they would otherwise have expected from this work. The briefing we have received from our research supplier on interim findings from the research also suggests that, while the time committed by teachers to grading in 2021 was substantial, it was also variable by the seniority of the staff and likely in line with how the centre organised its approach to assessment and grading and the extent to which other elements of workload were deprioritised.

In Scotland we have seen the challenges of administering a 'bonus' pay out as eligible teachers there received a one-off payment of £400 for the additional work.<sup>1</sup> This is a complex issue, and we would suggest that there are others better placed to comment on teacher workload and the legalities of any such payment.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-employers-on-one-off-gbp400-payment-for-teachers/>

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We will ensure that we will share with the committee our research report when we publish.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Blaker', written in a cursive style.

Philip Blaker  
Chief Executive