

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



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/01566/22

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

28 July 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July in which you bring to my attention the Qualifications Wales Report (*Perceptions and experiences of grading in summer 2021*), in the context of Petition P-06-1228: Give secondary teachers a bonus for marking and standardizing summer 2021 official assessments.

As I noted in my letter of 18 November, I was extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of all teachers and lecturers across Wales whose collective efforts were vital in supporting the delivery of centre-determined grades. I continue to be grateful for their commitment throughout the summer 2022 series, in particular the guidance and support they have provided to our learners in preparations for their examinations.

As Qualifications Wales has confirmed, their '*Perceptions and experiences of grading in summer 2021*' report was commissioned to consider the perceptions and experiences of teachers, lecturers and heads of centre who were involved in marking or overseeing grading decisions but did not explore the subject of remuneration, which was the focus of the petition.

The report highlighted several positive outcomes and whilst I am aware that there were some areas that could have been improved, I was pleased to note that nearly all participants felt clear on their roles and responsibilities throughout the grading process and were confident in their abilities to deliver them. An important contributing factor to this being that most participants were aware of, and had attended, training on the grading process provided by their own centres. It was encouraging to see that around half of the participants were aware of and had attended training provided by WJEC and that overall, they felt that the training provided by WJEC and Qualifications Wales was clear and helpful. I was especially pleased that this included unconscious bias and standardisation.

I do acknowledge that the Report includes a line referring to "some participants felt that teachers should have been recompensed for additional work/time spent on the CDG

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto: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.

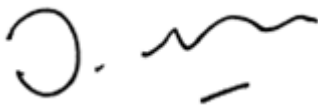
process". It might be helpful if I recap the approach taken in Wales, as detailed within my letter of 18 November.

In recognition of the enhanced role of schools and colleges in delivering grades last 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.

As I noted in my previous reply, in contrast to the arrangements elsewhere in the UK, Wales' CDG model and the appeals process in particular, were 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 .

Thank you again for sharing this report and for the update in respect of petition P-06-1228.

Yours sincerely

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

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
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