

CCEA

COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the 152nd Council meeting held Wednesday 03 August 2022 via MS Team
4:30pm – 6pm**

Present :

Mr T O'Reilly (Chair)

Mrs S Sellars (Vice Chair)

Mrs D O'Connor

Mrs P Slevin

Mrs P Leitch

Mrs A Kingsley

Miss M Corrigan

Mr B Wilson

Mrs L Scott (Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer AICEO)

Ms A Swann (Temporary Director of Education - TDoE)

Mrs S King (Head of Regulation – HOR))

Mr J Daly (Temporary Director of Finance and Corporate Services TDoFCS)

Mr Andrew McAfee (Business Manager, Multimedia Learning Resources & Engagement – MLRE)

Mr M Crossan (Business Manager, Exams & Assessment Administration BMEAA)

Mrs Suzanne Kingon Department of Education Observer, Director of Qualifications and Standards

Ms Jacqui Burns (Temporary Manager, Council Secretariat)

MINUTES

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Dr Les Caul, Mrs K O'Hare, Mr R Smyth, Mr P Hanna and Mr H McCarthy,

2. Conflict of Interests

Mr P Hanna informed (via email) that his daughter will be sitting A Level exams this year but does not feel conflicted in decision making. Mr P Hanna did not attend this meeting.

3. Examinations – Summer 2022 Series - A Level Awarding

Mr T O'Reilly (Chair) welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance at short notice.

The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting was to discuss data output issues raised by CCEA Regulation and the Department of Education (DE). This would suggest potential difficulties in delivering on assurances detailed in the October 2021 advice given to DE. A similar assurance had been provided to the Permanent Secretary, Mark Browne in May 2022.

Mrs Leah Scott (AICEO) thanked the attendee's and introduced Ms Amanda Swann (TDoE) to outline various options and risks associated with these measures.

Awarding Body Council Update Presentation

The TDoE presented a paper on awarding arrangements for A level & As level qualifications for summer 2022. She outlined the overall aim that CCEA had been tasked to achieve:

“Aim for a subject level grade distribution higher than 2019, likely to be that of 2020, with greater emphasis on examiner judgement to make the award and utilising statistical predictions and historical data showing the relationship between unit level grade outcomes and subject level grade outcomes in each subject.”

The TDoE outlined some emerging issues that Council needed to take into consideration and provided some draft indicative figures for 2022 with comparison figures from 2019 – 2021 for both A Level and AS Level.

She highlighted several A level and AS Level subjects that currently have outcomes below 2019 at Grade C and E . The TDoE explained that some of these are small cohort subjects and therefore slight changes can have a bigger impact. Larger cohort subjects such as Maths and English are also lower than 2021.

The TDoE highlighted some principles that Council needed to consider as part of its discussion including fairness, public perception and highlighted that work on the AS and A levels awarding timetable was having a knock-on effect on the work on delivery of the GCSE results.

The DE representative emphasised that the circumstances facing this group of students taking A Levels in 2022 are exceptional due to the impact disruption caused of COVID 19 pandemic and that DE's expectation would be that CCEA would be able to deliver on the agreed outcomes.

Options and Risks

The Council were presented with a range of options to deliver on the agreed approach for awarding summer 2022. The TDoE also presented associated risks relating to each option. The issues discussed included ensuring that Northern Ireland learners were not disadvantaged in applying for university places in Great Britain; the need to take account of the approach being taken in England and Wales and the need to deliver on public commitments on CCEA's approach to the 2022 awards. Council was made aware of the operational risks in implementing this year's awards and agreed the importance of confirming the overall approach to awards for 2022.

Recommendation

In consideration of all the issues and risks presented, the Council agreed that option 3 should be implemented to ensure that grades are within the agreed approach. The decision was proposed by Anne Kingsley and Seconded by Patricia Slevin. The Chair confirmed this decision would be conveyed to the TDoE.

Council acknowledged the work of the TDoE and her team to date.

The meeting ended at 6.05pm

