

10 April 2018

Julian Sturdy  
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Dear Mr Sturdy,

**Parliamentary Question 134541: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many applications for new GCSE qualifications have been received by Ofqual in each of the last five years.**

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP has asked Ofqual to respond to you directly regarding your recent parliamentary question. A copy of this response will be placed in the House of Commons library.

Ofqual is the independent qualifications and examinations regulator. We regulate the exam boards that are recognised to offer GCSEs in England. Our recognition process makes sure that only organisations with the competence and capacity to award GCSEs can do so.

In the last five years Ofqual has received applications from five awarding organisations for recognition to offer 9 to 1 GCSE qualifications. The applications were received in 2014 to 2016. We have not received any new applications from organisations seeking recognition to award GCSEs in 2017 or, to date, in 2018. Four awarding organisations are recognised to award 9 to 1 GCSEs.

The introduction of new GCSE subjects is determined by the Department for Education. The Department have said that they have no plans to introduce new GCSEs in this Parliament so as to give time for the recent changes to qualifications to settle in for schools.

Yours sincerely



**Michelle Meadows**

Deputy Chief Regulator, Executive Director for Strategy, Risk and Research