



Lucy Powell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

3 April 2019

Dear Ms Powell,

Parliamentary Question 231477: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will place in the Library a copy of correspondence in the last year between Ofqual and universities on International GCSEs.

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 Libraries of both Houses.

Most International GCSEs, including those taken in England, are not regulated by Ofqual. We do not regulate any International GCSEs offered by Pearson Edexcel or Oxford AQA. We will not regulate any International GCSEs offered by Cambridge Assessment International after 1 April 2020.

Ofqual has not corresponded with universities in the last year on International GCSEs.

We ran an extensive communications campaign to help students, parents, teachers, employers and high education institutions understand reformed GCSEs, including 9 to 1 GCSE grades and produced a range of resources to support this, such as films, postcards and posters.

We will continue to engage with the higher education sector to explain how GCSEs are graded. We will write to universities with information about the range of qualifications likely to be held by applicants. We will provide information on which ones are regulated and reinforce messages about recent changes to some widely taken qualifications, such as applied generals.

Universities are used to dealing with applications from students with a broad range of qualifications and profiles. They also consider the diversity of international qualifications and profiles of older applicants when reviewing applications. International GCSEs are just

one type of qualification from the range used, alongside other application information, to inform admissions decisions.

On our Register of qualifications we describe International GCSEs as Level 1/2 certificates, to reduce the risk of confusion with GCSEs. When applying to university through UCAS, students are required to select their qualifications from a menu that differentiates between GCSEs and International GCSEs / Level 1/2 certificates. We think this mitigates the risk of confusion between these qualifications. However, we recognise the importance of communicating the differences between these qualifications to avoid the standards being perceived as precisely comparable.

I do hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Collier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sally Collier
Chief Regulator