



Lord Watson of Invergowrie
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

14 July 2020

Dear Lord Watson,

HL6188: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the appeals system for grades awarded this year for GCSE, AS Level and A Level exams will operate to a timetable that will ensure that students do not have to defer the next stage of their education by a full year.

Students will be awarded calculated grades in GCSEs, AS and A levels this summer, giving them the opportunity to move on to further study or employment, despite the cancellation of exams. When we published the [outcome of our consultation on this summer's arrangements](#), we confirmed that a centre may appeal to the exam board if it believes the centre itself made an error when submitting a centre assessment grade or rank order information; or similarly, if it believes an exam board made a mistake when calculating, assigning or communicating a grade. We expect that any mistakes will be quickly found and corrected. As in any year, we would expect exam boards to operate such as to ensure appeals are dealt with in good time.

On 30 June 2020 we published [draft statutory guidance](#) for consultation, setting out our expectations of how exam boards will deliver appeals this summer. It closes on 14 July. We will publish the decisions from this consultation as soon as is reasonably possible. Exam boards will then publish the arrangements for their appeals processes, which will include the timing and deadlines for appeals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. L. Meadows". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Michelle Meadows

**Executive Director Strategy, Risk and Research, Deputy Chief
Regulator, Ofqual
Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Education, University of
Oxford**