



National Assessment Agency

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Dear Mr Laws

The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, has asked me to write to you concerning a number of parliamentary questions you recently asked.

- MR DAVID LAWS (YEOVIL):** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many key stage two scripts were unmarked as at 14th July; and if he will make a statement. **(221782)**
- how many key stage two and key stage three text scripts were sent out to the wrong markers in (a) 2007 and (b) 2008; and if he will make a statement. **(221783)**
- how many key stage two and key stage three text scripts were reported mislaid in (a) 2006, (b) 2007 and (c) 2008; and if he will make a statement **(221784)**
- how many key stage two and key stage three test markers were rejected for lack of reliability during the live marking of the tests in (a) 2006, (b) 2007 and (c) 2008; and if he will make a statement. **(221785)**
- what proportion of (a) key stage two and (b) key stage three tests in (i) science, (ii) English and (iii) mathematics were (A) marked, (B) marked with results entered into a computer system, (C) marked and returned to the relevant school by (1) 8th July and (2) 15th July; and if he will make a statement. **(221787)**
- what proportion of key stage two and key stage three scripts were sent out late to markers in (a) 2006, (b) 2007 and (c) 2008; and if he will make a statement **(221788)**
- what percentage of appeals against key stage two and key stage three marking were upheld in each year from 2005 to 2008; how many appeals were received in each year; and if he will make a statement. **(221789)**

The answers are as follows:

221783

The process for transporting scripts from schools to markers has been managed by the test operations agency in both 2007 and 2008. In 2007, schools were responsible for directly sending scripts to markers, whilst in 2008 this process was managed centrally.

In both 2007 and 2008 the test operations agency was required to provide the NAA with information on marking progress. The level of detail provided by the test operations agencies did not include data on incorrect deliveries to markers.



221784

The number of key stage 2 and key stage 3 scripts reported as mislaid are as follows:

2006	1,661 scripts (approximately 0.04%)
2007	2,315 scripts (approximately 0.06%)
2008	The number of mislaid scripts is not known until the end of the cycle, after all suspected missing scripts have been investigated. Investigations for the 2008 cycle are not yet complete.

221785

At the outset of marking, markers are required to standardise to demonstrate that they can apply the markscheme reliably. Markers that fail standardisation are stopped from marking.

In each of the last three years, after standardising, markers have been subject to quality checks to ensure they continue to apply the mark scheme correctly. In 2006 and 2007, markers were checked twice during the marking cycle, and the checks consisted of the marker providing their team leader with a self-selected sample of their marking. This self-selected sample was then checked by the team leader. If the team leader believed that the marker was not correctly applying the mark scheme, they could request a second sample. If the team leader was not satisfied with the second sample, then the marker would be stopped.

In 2008, markers were required to complete between 3 and 5 benchmarks, with the exact number depending on key stage and subject, as well as allocation size. In each benchmarking attempt, markers were required to mark a set of national standard scripts. If a marker failed a benchmark attempt, they would be mentored by their team leader, before being given a second opportunity to benchmark. If the marker failed the second benchmark attempt, then the marker would be stopped.

The following table shows the number of markers who were either stopped by standardisation or stopped during the marking cycle because they failed both attempts at a marking quality check, or, having failed a first attempt at a marking quality check, chose to withdraw from marking rather than make a second attempt.

Year	Markers stopped
2006	288
2007	212
2008	283

In evidence to the Select Committee, ETS Europe stated that 405 markers had been stopped during 2008. This does not tally with the data ETS Europe has provided the NAA, and the NAA is currently seeking further information on how the 405 was calculated.

221787 & 221782

On 14 July, ETS information provided to NAA relating to unmarked scripts held at marking centres indicated that there were no unmarked key stage 2 scripts.

It was known that there were scripts that were not data entered on both 8 July and 15 July but unfortunately the ETS management reports at that time could only identify scripts that were marked and data entered.

Later additional unmarked KS2 scripts were identified by ETS Europe in their possession in the warehouse and some were returned from schools after having being incorrectly dispatched.

The following table shows the number of test papers that had been marked and submitted (data entered) by each key stage and subject. Because each script comprises a number of papers, the *Equivalent scripts* column shows the approximate number of scripts the test papers represent. For your information, the number of papers per script is indicated in

brackets next to the subject. Furthermore, because the KS3 English components are marked by different markers, the table shows the reading and writing components separately.

Subject	Papers (8 July)	Equivalent scripts (8 July)	Papers (15 July)	Equivalent scripts (15 July)
KS2 English (3)	1,625,125	541,708	1,676,492	558,831
KS2 Maths (3)	1,688,237	562,746	1,706,478	568,826
KS2 Science (2)	1,124,103	562,052	1,150,957	575,478
KS3 English R (2)	929,582	464,791	936,211	468,106
KS3 English W (1)	458,750	458,750	493,537	493,537
KS3 Maths (3)	1,661,777	553,926	1,694,621	564,874
KS3 Science (2)	1,070,206	535,103	1,095,493	547,746

The management information pertaining to script deliveries to schools did not provide data at script level.

221788

The process for transporting scripts from schools to markers has been directly managed by the test operations agency for all of 2006, 2007 and 2008. In both 2006 and 2007, schools were responsible for directly sending scripts to markers, whilst in 2008 this process was managed centrally.

In 2006 and 2007 this information was not provided to the NAA as part of the standard management information reporting, while in 2008 this information was not reported at script level. It is known, however that by 23 May, approximately 66 per cent of script boxes had been despatched to markers.

221789

The percentage of appeals is included in the attached table. Information on 2008 reviews is not yet available.

Yours sincerely



David Gee
Managing Director, NAA

MARKING REVIEWS SUMMARY

Key Stage 2

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS2E	Clerical review	997	1054	914	1593	1892	1474	178	44	45	560	384	341
								0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.09%	0.06%	0.05%
	Individual review	2846	1956	1693	15509	7516	5736	26	7	8	762	505	185
								0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.12%	0.08%	0.03%
	Group review	89	184	82	4561	9957	3784	55	56	60	320	149	49
								0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.05%	0.02%	0.01%

Proportion of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
46%	23%	26%
5%	7%	3%
8%	2%	3%

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS2M	Clerical review	405	369	335	668	487	447	112	14	11	319	79	75
								0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.05%	0.01%	0.01%
	Individual review	444	583	554	578	755	670	3	0	0	282	324	286
								-	-	-	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%
	Group review	0	1	0	0	67	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
								-	-	-	-	-	-

Proportion of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
65%	19%	19%
49%	43%	43%
-	4%	-

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS2S	Clerical review	350	341	309	508	428	389	74	13	9	277	65	80
								0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%
	Individual review	611	746	837	885	1164	1340	2	0	2	435	525	555
								-	-	-	0.07%	0.08%	0.09%
	Group review	0	1	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
								-	-	-	-	-	-

Proportion of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
69%	18%	23%
49%	45%	42%
-	0%	-

Notes - validity of notes not checked for 2008 data

1. The percentages are historically calculated based on the cohort of 650,000 for each subject year-on-year.
2. The schools and pupil data excludes overseas schools
3. '-' indicates a percentage lower than 0.01%
4. The pupil count only includes pupil data where the review was accepted and both the pre-review and post-review test outcomes were valid levels. For examples, cases where an absent pupil 'A' has been amended to a left school result 'L', have not been included in the count
5. The number of decimal places used for publishing percentages has varied between years. For consistency all figures have been rounded to two decimal places.
6. Group remarks were not conducted prior to 2005

MARKING REVIEWS SUMMARY

Key Stage 3

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS3E	Clerical review	117	390	80	2928	1601	626	76	3	11	274	35	268
								0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	0.01%	0.04%
	Individual review	337	257	392	2413	4790	3446	18	5	10	1077	775	1521
								0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.17%	0.12%	0.23%
	Group review	117	669	116	20544	75133	25549	581	107	488	2485	1825	3019
								0.09%	0.02%	0.08%	0.38%	0.28%	0.46%

Proportion of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
12%	2%	45%
45%	16%	44%
15%	3%	14%

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS3M	Clerical review	364	394	338	684	840	642	121	107	81	417	366	368
								0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%
	Individual review	304	308	295	604	615	536	2	0	1	403	401	283
								-	-	-	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%
	Group review	0	1	0	0	230	0	0	5	0	0	11	0
								-	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	-

Proportion of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
79%	56%	70%
67%	65%	53%
-	7%	-

	Reviews	Schools involved in reviews			Reviews requested (pupils)			Reviews resulting in a lower level (Pupil)			Reviews resulting in an increase in level (Pupil)		
		2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
KS3S	Clerical review	542	557	551	1071	1185	1106	188	116	76	673	601	497
								0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.10%	0.09%	0.08%
	Individual review	561	552	720	2298	1976	2651	8	5	3	832	779	898
								0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.13%	0.12%	0.14%
	Group review	4	2	3	870	426	825	35	18	15	61	21	22
								0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%

Percentage of requested reviews resulting in a level change		
2005	2006	2007
80%	61%	52%
37%	40%	34%
11%	9%	4%

Notes - validity of notes not checked for 2008 data

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