

Samantha Niblett MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

15 September 2025

By email only to
samantha.niblett.mp@parliament.uk

Ref: PQ 72386

Dear Ms Niblett,

Re: PQ 72386 To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to require the Joint Council for Qualifications to ensure that all exam regulatory boards action requests for a name change following marriage

When Schools Minister, Catherine McKinnell asked Ofqual to respond directly to your recent Parliamentary Question. A copy of this response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Ofqual is the regulator for qualifications in England. It is responsible for ensuring that regulated qualifications reliably indicate the knowledge, skills and understanding students have demonstrated and that public confidence in regulated qualifications is maintained.

The precise circumstances under which an exam board may decide to re-issue an exam certificate following a request for a name change after marriage, is a decision for the exam boards.

Ofqual's rules, which apply to all regulated awarding organisations, include requirements about the design of certificates. The rules are clear that certificates must include "the full name of the Learner as registered". The rules do not, however, prohibit an awarding organisation from changing the registered name of a Learner on a replacement certificate, so long as that Learner can be clearly identified as the same Learner that originally registered for the qualification.

Please note, however, that Ofqual's rules do not require an exam board to action requests for a name change on replacement certificates following

marriage and as such, Ofqual cannot compel such action, nor would there be an expectation that exam boards routinely do so.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ian Bauckham'.

Sir Ian Bauckham CBE

Chief Regulator