



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

16/02/2022

Report by: Arwyn Thomas GwE Managing Director

Subject: Letter to Education Minister (12.01.22) regarding the 2021-22 qualification series and response (31.01.22)

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To provide a formal record to the Joint-Committee with regards to the letter sent on behalf of the Joint Committee to the Education Minister on 12.01.22 concerning this year's qualification series.

2.0 Background

- 2.1. The letter to the Minister shared a summary of the communication between GwE Joint Committee and Kirsty Williams the then Minister of education expressing concerns regarding the fairness of arrangements made by Qualifications Wales from 2018 to 2021.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. The letter summarises the Joint Committee's serious concerns about the wellbeing and fairness for this year's learners and stresses the importance of avoiding what has happened in previous years. It is difficult to see how qualifications by examinations can be equitable and fair for our schools and their pupils due to the disruptions caused by COVID.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1. The Joint Committee is asked to formally note the content of the letter and consider if any further communication is needed with the Education Minister at this stage following his response.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

- 6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

- 7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation undertaken

- 8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board, Joint Committee and secondary Headteachers.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Letter to Minister for Education and Welsh Language dated 12.01.22
Appendix 2 – Minister’s response dated 31.01.22

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

“Nothing to add from the perspective of financial propriety”