

# Consultation on the Proposed CCEA Post Results Service 2021

**Demographics**

***Please indicate the capacity in which you are responding to this consultation:***

On behalf of an organisation

***If you are responding on behalf of organisation, which of the following best describes your organisation?***

***Other***

CSSC is a voluntary body with charitable status

**We intend to publish a list of the organisations that have responded. If you consent to this please provide the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of.**

**Controlled Schools’ Support Council**

**Stage 1 - Centre Review**

***How satisfied are you that the grounds for Centre Review are suitable?***

* Satisfied

The Controlled Schools’ Support Council (CSSC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed CCEA Post Results Service 2021. In formulating this response we have consulted with controlled post-primary schools, both grammar and non-selective.

CSSC considers that each school will have conscientiously adhered to their centre determined grade policy in determining grades for each pupil in each subject. CSSC recognises that in so doing, schools have followed procedures with the utmost diligence to ensure pupils are awarded the grade they deserve and to mitigate against administrative errors. However, CSSC also accepts that even with rigorous and robust policy and procedures in place, errors can still occur and therefore an opportunity for review is important to assure all pupils that no administrative error has taken place and that the school followed all procedures correctly.

**Stage 2 - Appeal to CCEA Awarding Organisation**

***How satisfied are you with the grounds for Appeal to CCEA?***

* Unsure

Controlled schools are committed to ensuring that all pupils are awarded the grades they deserve regardless of the current challenging circumstances, including allowing for an appeal where appropriate. CSSC understands that controlled schools have put in place robust internal processes for the identification and assessment of evidence and quality assurance and that they will have taken account of access arrangements or special consideration.

CSSC seeks clarification on the grounds upon which an appeal to CCEA Awarding Organisation may be submitted. CSSC contends that grounds 1 and 2 appear to be a duplication of stage 1 that has already been completed by the school in order to advance to stage 2.

At stage 2,

* will CCEA require the school to confirm that the Centre Review was carried out at stage 1 and where appropriate provide evidence of such a review taking place, or
* does this suggest that a second Centre Review will be expected?

CSSC is content that schools may be asked to confirm that the Centre Review has taken place and where appropriate provide evidence of such a review taking place.

CSSC is not supportive of schools having to duplicate work already carried out.

CSSC agrees that schools should have the opportunity to appeal a decision by CCEA where an administrative error appears to have taken place.

Where a pupil seeks to appeal against a perceived unreasonable academic judgement in determining their grade, CSSC contends that the pupil should be required to provide sufficient verifiable evidence that the judgement has been unreliable. CSSC would also argue that the pupil should not be accommodated in identifying their own evidence or in providing additional evidence to seek an upgrade in their results as this would put them at an unfair advantage to others who were assessed alongside them.

**Exams Procedure Review Service**

***Do you think the EPRS is appropriate for reviewing the compliance of CCEA Awarding Organisation with its appeals process?***

* Yes

CSSC is content that the EPRS, led and operated by CCEA Regulation, is appropriate for reviewing the compliance of CCEA Awarding Organisation with its appeals process.

**Equality**

**CCEA has completed an Equality screening on the Post Results Service process and no issues were identified. If you have any comments regarding equality, please leave these below:**

No issues identified.

**Any Further Comments**

**If you have any further comments regarding the proposed CCEA Post Results Service, please leave these below:**

CSSC strongly advocates for a standardised policy for appeals, produced by CCEA, that all schools would adhere to and provide to their pupils.

CSSC also strongly advocates for a standardised appeals proforma, produced by CCEA, that all pupils would complete to instigate an appeal.

Standardising the policy and the proforma would support schools in providing a consistent approach to all pupils. 100% of controlled schools consulted were strongly supportive of a standardised policy and proforma for appeals so that a consistent approach to appeals is adopted across Northern Ireland.

Please note this is an officer response. To meet the time frame it has not been possible to bring to Council for approval.