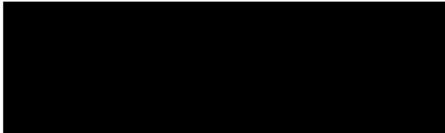


6 December 2019



redacted s9(2)(a)

Dear 

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 13 November 2019, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

1. *What is/are the propose(s) for which all practice exam marks relating to Level 1 to Level 3 external standards are being collected from schools (and not just the marks needed to give emergency grades for individual students applying for them)?*
2. *What advice has the Ministry of Education received or given regarding the privacy implications of collecting practice assessment data from schools in cases where students have not been informed that their practice grades are being supplied to NZQA.*

Purpose of Unexpected Event grade collection

The purpose of collecting the practice examination marks relating to Levels 1 to Level 3 external standards is so that if there is an unexpected event that affects students' performance in the actual examination, or prevents them from sitting the examination, grades are immediately available to NZQA without students needing to complete an individual application.

What is an Unexpected Event?

An unexpected event describes events that impact on multiple students' attendance or completion of an examination. Examples of an unexpected event include earthquakes that close an examination centre, localised flooding that prevents students travelling to the examination centre or the school's internet losing connection partway through an online examination.

Who approves an Unexpected Event?

NZQA's Chief Executive (or their delegate) must approve the circumstances for an unexpected event grade. The evidence of the event and assessment of the impact is supplied by the school. Schools confirm that the grades held by NZQA reflect the students' best performance.

Are students informed of the collection of grades?

Schools advise students that the grades from practice examinations and other quality assured practice assessments will be used if an individual derived grade application is approved or for an unexpected event.

What does NZQA do with the grades collected?

Schools submit Unexpected Event grades with their regular entries and results data file submission. These grades are only applied when an unexpected event has been approved and enable affected students to have their prior achievement recognised without any additional administrative burden on schools or students.

Are the grades kept secure?

As with all other results collected by NZQA, they are held securely. Results from externally assessed standards are held under embargo until qualifications have been checked and are published to students in January.

There has been no advice received or given by the Ministry of Education regarding the privacy implications of collecting practice assessment data from schools in cases where students have not been informed that their practice grades are being supplied to NZQA. As with external results, all data is kept securely, and the privacy of individuals maintained.

Where can I find more information about Unexpected Events and Derived Grades?

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/derived-grades/4-candidates/unexpected/>

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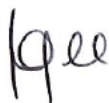
NZQA is not aware of any public interest considerations outweighing the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act.

As part of the commitment to open and transparent government, NZQA is proactively releasing responses to Official Information Act requests which are of public interest. NZQA intends publishing its response to your request on its website in December 2019. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact [redacted] in the Office of the Chief Executive, email [redacted]@nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04) 463 [redacted] **redacted s9(2)(a)**

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Yours sincerely



Dr Daryn Bean
Acting Chief Executive