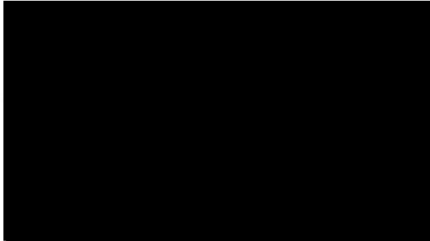


10 March 2020



Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your further request of 12 February 2020 under the Official Information Act 1982, following the release of information to you on 27 January 2020 relating to Derived Grades, for the following information:

Could I please get further information concerning the development of the criteria for derived grades including:

- *any regulatory impact statements (RIS) or policy advice on the criteria for obtaining derived grades*
- *any information on the how criteria for students obtaining their derived grades was set/developed*
- *any information reviewing the criteria for students obtaining their derived grades once the criteria was set*
- *any information (such as policy advice RIS or monitoring documents) on the relationship between the criteria for derived grades and ongoing illnesses such as depression, anxiety, or endometriosis*
- *any information (such as policy advice RIS or monitoring documents) on the relationship between the criteria for derived grades and the access to school nurses or access to medical professionals to provide medical certificates.*

You can find most of the information you have requested on our public website www.nzqa.govt.nz.

The Assessment (including Examination) Rules for Schools with Consent to Assess 2020 <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/assessment-including-examination-rules-2020/7> provide the grounds for, and process to apply for, a derived grade.

Derived Grade Guidelines, <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/derived-grades/>, guide candidates and schools to make appropriate applications by:

- clarifying the eligibility criteria and requirements for a derived grade
- assisting schools and candidates to provide sufficient information and supporting evidence when making applications

The derived grade process and guidelines are reviewed annually using information and feedback from the school sector, applications made by candidates and the appeal process. This informs changes and clarifications where appropriate.

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) are available for candidates with an ongoing illness or impairment, such as depression, anxiety or endometriosis, which may pose a barrier to fair assessment. Information on <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/special-assessment-conditions/> for candidates with ongoing conditions is available on our website.

Candidates who are unwell at the time of their examinations must provide evidence to support their application. For medical applications, the supporting evidence needs to confirm a medical diagnosis from a consultation at the time of the examination.

The author of any supporting document needs to be independent and suitably qualified to justify the application. Possible examples of <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation-of-standards/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/derived-grades/4-candidates/evidence/> an application are provided on our website and include reports or certificates from people such as a doctor, a doctor's practice nurse and school nurse or a counsellor (who could be a school counsellor). NZQA also accepts attestations from staff who witnessed or attended to an event during an examination that may have impaired a student's performance.

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 to publish the response to this request on its website in June 2020. 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]

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Poutasi', is written over a white background.

Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive