

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 HOURS, TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2019

JCQ welcomes the report of the Independent Commission on Malpractice

The JCQ Board welcomes the report of the Independent Commission on Malpractice chaired by Sir John Dunford.

Mark Bedlow, Chair of JCQ said:

“JCQ and its member awarding bodies recognise the hard work of Sir John and the members of his Commission in undertaking such a detailed review of the current system to guard against malpractice in the UK’s examination and assessment system.

“The Commission’s findings show that the system is robust and that very little malpractice occurs due to the diligence and professionalism of those involved. However, the Commission has noted a number of areas for improvement of our systems to further minimise incidents of malpractice.”

JCQ is considering its responses to the report and identifying ways to implement the recommendations. JCQ has already initiated work to:

- review the definition of malpractice in consultation with stakeholders in the autumn;
- consider a ban on all watches in examinations from the summer examinations series 2020;
- review JCQ communications across our activities, we will report in early autumn; and
- make our online guidance and documentation interactive and searchable.

JCQ will need to consider some of the recommendations against the requirements of the Equality Act, GDPR legislation and legal and technical issues in order to devise a timetable of implementation.

JCQ will implement recommendations with sensitivity following extensive consultation with Examination Officers and other key stakeholders. In addition, we will draw on the knowledge and expertise of our existing working groups including disability groups, teacher associations and members of the awarding bodies’ malpractice working groups.

JCQ will issue a report in September 2020 to highlight progress on the implementation of recommendations from the Commission.

Philip Wright, Director General, JCQ said:

“The Commission has emphasised the importance of reducing bureaucratic burden on Examination Officers and Heads of Centres. This is a JCQ priority.

“The Independent Commission’s report, and our communications review, will guide JCQ’s work and ensure that our documentation is more accessible and relevant to our stakeholders.”

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

Notes to editors

1. JCQ^{CIC} comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, NCFE, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the eight largest providers of qualifications in the UK. The JCQ^{CIC} is a membership organisation and enables member awarding bodies to act together in providing, where possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications; and responding to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.
2. The Independent Review on Malpractice, Chaired by Sir John Dunford was announced on 26 July 2018 and commenced work in September 2018.
3. Media contacts: JCQ's press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671 out of hours 07905683816. Printed copies of the report can be obtained free of charge by email.