



Privacy notice: assessment and grading 2020

Exceptional arrangements for assessment and grading 2020

This privacy notice explains how Ofqual uses personal information to enable it to put in place exceptional arrangements for grading in 2020 due to the current pandemic. As a result, Ofqual has made some changes to the way it processes some personal data and we explain more about this below.

If you need extra help, would like this notice in another format (for example: audio, large print, braille) or if you have any questions about this privacy notice or the information we hold about you, please contact our Data Protection Officer using the contact details below.

This privacy notice should be read in conjunction with our main privacy notice. Details of our main privacy notice and data protection policy may be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual/about/personal-information-charter>

Why we need your information and how we use it

Due to the current pandemic, many examinations and assessments cannot take place in the usual way. Ofqual is working with exam boards to develop approaches to ensure that, as far as possible, students are awarded grades this summer that will allow them to progress.

Some of the information we are using to support this work is already held by Ofqual as part of our regulatory functions. However, this will be a new use for the information. Some additional information may also be requested from exam boards if necessary. We will revisit and update this privacy notice as necessary if additional information is requested.

What personal data do we process?

We use personal data about students from this year and previous years. This includes information such as qualification level results, student prior attainment and student characteristics.

Sharing Personal Data

We are working with exam boards to develop approaches for awarding grades this summer and may share data with them. Where we do so, we will ensure that, as far

as possible, the personal data is anonymised or pseudonymised. Where necessary, we will conduct a data privacy impact assessment and may enter into an information sharing agreement to ensure that the data is kept safe and secure and only used for the purpose agreed. This will only apply where we are sharing data with exam boards and not in circumstances where exam boards may be required to provide data to us. As part of any agreement exam boards would agree not to seek to re-identify any individuals.

Legal basis

Our processing of the data required is to carry out a task in the public interest or to exercise official authority vested in Ofqual (Article 6(1)(e) GDPR.) Amongst its statutory objectives, Ofqual is tasked with:

- a) securing that regulated qualifications (GCSEs and A levels) give a reliable indication of knowledge, skills and understanding (s128(2) Apprenticeships, Skills, Children & Learning Act (ASCLA) 2009); and
- b) Promoting public confidence in regulated qualifications

Where we process special category data, then in addition to the Article 6 basis set out above, we rely on Article 9 (2) (g) for processing necessary for reasons of substantial public interest.

Retention

Personal data will only be retained for as long as is necessary and in accordance with our data protection policy found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual/about/personal-information-charter>

Your rights

Details of the rights available to you and how you can exercise these can be found in our Personal Information Charter.

Contact us

Ofqual
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1 Friargate
Station Street
Coventry
CV1 2GN
0300 303 3344

public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk

You can contact Ofqual's Data Protection Officer at dp.requests@ofqual.gov.uk.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113