

**Undertaking given by Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) to Ofqual in accordance with Condition B8 of the General Conditions of Recognition, June 2016 (the Conditions)**

**Background:**

1. In the context of:
  - a. Conditions GCE10.1, GCE(Pre-reform)3.1, GCSE10.1 and GCSE(A\* to G)2.1, hereinafter known as 'the marking arrangements conditions'; and
  - b. Ofqual's evaluation of data collected in respect of a complaint; and
  - c. OCR's consideration of its own performance in respect of that evaluation.
2. OCR recognises that its approach to compliance with the marking arrangements conditions in 2017 was not sufficiently robust and recognises a risk that it might fail to comply with those conditions during the 2018 summer series unless it amends its approach.

**Undertaking**

3. This undertaking shall apply to every component of each GCE and GCSE qualification which is not an excluded component.
4. The excluded components are:
  - a. Traditionally marked components; and
  - b. The 237 electronically marked components with fewer than three examiners for each component.
5. With a view to securing compliance with the marking arrangements conditions, before 4pm on 14 June 2018 OCR will:
  - a. Enhance its current approach to monitoring Assessors by creating a decision-making framework (or amending any existing such framework), to include in particular:
    - i. An explanation that evidence derived from seeding scripts/items will be assumed to have greater weight than any other relevant evidence in respect of marking quality;
    - ii. An explanation of the circumstances in which that assumption might be rebutted;
    - iii. A process to secure timely, effective and appropriate intervention in respect of Assessors found to have failed a single seed script/item;
    - iv. A description of the intervention actions which might be taken in respect of Assessors found to have failed a single seed script/item, together with examples of the circumstances in which a particular intervention action might be appropriate;

- v. A process to secure timely effective and appropriate intervention in respect of Assessors demonstrating a pattern of failure in respect of seed scripts/items;
    - vi. A description of the intervention actions which might be taken in respect of Assessors demonstrating a pattern of failure in respect of seed scripts/items, together with examples of the circumstances in which a particular intervention action might be appropriate;
  - b. Ensure that the intervention actions available in respect of the monitoring of Assessors include (but need not be limited to):
    - i. Providing timely individual feedback to the Assessor;
    - ii. Providing further training to the Assessor;
    - iii. Providing additional support to the Assessor;
    - iv. Requiring the Assessor to undergo supplemental, repeat or additional standardisation activity;
    - v. Requiring the Assessor to re-mark some or all of the assessment material marked before the intervention action;
    - vi. Preventing the Assessor from marking any further assessment material.
  - c. Put in place an effective process to monitor the performance of persons tasked with monitoring Assessors, and in particular whether those persons are properly applying the decision-making framework;
  - d. Ensure that contemporaneous records are made:
    - i. In respect of every instance where an Assessor is found to have failed a single seed script/item;
    - ii. In respect of every instance where an Assessor is found to demonstrate a pattern of failure in respect of seed scripts/items;
    - iii. In respect of every decision to take an intervention action, such records to include any other evidence considered and the rationale for the choice of intervention;
    - iv. In respect of every decision not to take an intervention action where an Assessor has failed in respect of a seed item or items, such records to include any other evidence considered and the rationale for the decision not to take an intervention action;
    - v. In respect of the monitoring of persons tasked with monitoring Assessors.
  - e. Preserve such records and produce those records to Ofqual on demand.
- 6. With a view to securing that its revised approach to compliance with the marking arrangements conditions will be effective, OCR will before 4pm on 14 June 2018 explain the operation of the revised process to all affected persons concerned with the monitoring of Assessors.

**Statement of Assurance**

7. With a view to assuring Ofqual that it has complied with this undertaking, OCR will, before 4pm on 18 June 2018, provide a Statement of Assurance, signed by the Responsible Officer and Chair of the Governing Body, confirming that:
  - a. It has put in place a decision-making framework, in accordance with paragraph 5a;
  - b. It has put in place an effective process to monitor the performance of persons tasked with monitoring Assessors, in accordance with paragraph 5c;
  - c. It has explained the operation of the revised process to all affected persons, in accordance with paragraph 6.

In giving this Undertaking, I acknowledge on behalf of OCR that:

- (1) Ofqual will publish this Undertaking; and
- (2) Ofqual may take enforcement action in respect of any failure to comply with an Undertaking given to it which may include the issue of a Direction, the imposition of a fine, costs or other such action as it deems appropriate.

Signed..... Date: 8 June 2018...

Responsible Officer