

12 September 2018

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BT

Office of Qualifications  
and Examinations Regulation  
Spring Place  
Coventry Business Park  
Herald Avenue  
Coventry CV5 6UB

Telephone 0300 303 3344  
Textphone 0300 303 3345  
[public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@ofqual.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/ofqual)

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for your letter confirming a change of national test operations supplier, setting out the approach the Department intends to take to managing this change and the safeguards officials are putting in place to ensure effective governance and delivery.


I have today written to the Chair of the Education Select Committee advising him of our approach to regulating National Assessments through this period, my letter is enclosed. As your officials will no doubt have advised, we have considered carefully our regulatory approach during the transition.

To most effectively meet our statutory objectives, we have concluded that we should maintain our focus on assessment validity but broaden our scope to include risks to validity which could arise as a result of the change. Given direct Ministerial oversight, the cross-government scrutiny already in place and the need for us to minimise burden, we are not intending to duplicate existing monitoring of operational delivery; our focus will instead be on supporting the maintenance of assessment quality and standards during the change.

We will, of course, maintain a high level overview of wider risks and systemic issues as we do now.

I understand my staff are liaising with your officials about how this will work in practice and I would be happy to provide you with any further information on our approach should you wish it.

Yours sincerely,



**Sally Collier**  
Chief Regulator