

Good afternoon, the SQA have released some updated information for National Qualifications services for learners sitting exams this session 2023. There are two areas in particular that we would like to bring your attention to:

Appeals 2023

The SQA have carefully considered the views of learners, parents, carers, teachers, lecturers and other stakeholders to make the following changes to the Appeals 2023 service. This service will now be more aligned with the service used before the pandemic, with some important enhancements. Alternative assessment evidence **will not be required** for this service. Instead, learners will be able to request a review of their SQA-marked assessment components. The service will be free and available to all learners regardless of their estimate. Learners will be able to appeal directly to SQA.

Appeals 2023 will include a priority service for learners with conditional offers for further education, training or employment. We are working closely with UCAS to ensure the outcome of priority appeals will be released ahead of their deadline.

Exceptional Circumstances Service 2023

We recognise that there are times when learners cannot sit an exam for reasons out with their control. The EECCS will continue to be available this year, meaning **those learners who need help the most due to exceptional circumstances can have alternative assessment evidence reviewed to help determine their grades**. The service will be available to learners who are unable to attend an exam and widened to include those whose performance in the examination may have been affected by a personal circumstance, or an unplanned incident on the day, which is beyond their control. This could be a medical condition or bereavement, or disruption on the day of the exam as reported by the Chief Invigilator.

The SQA will be sharing this information with learners, parents and carers through their social media streams. However the following link will take you to the SQA Parent Blog where additional information can be found.

<https://blogs.sqa.org.uk/nationalqualifications/national-qualifications-helping-your-child-prepare-for-sqa-exams-in-2023/>

Many thanks

Mr Ironside