



To: Directors of Education, Local Authority Data Leads

Cc: WLGA, Regional Consortia

7 July 2023

2023 Examination Results Data

Dear Colleagues

As we take the next step on the journey back towards examination arrangements more aligned with those pre-pandemic, [Qualifications Wales](#) have confirmed their intention for this year's results to fall broadly midway between those awarded in 2019 (the last year before the pandemic) and 2022 (the first year learners sat exams as we emerged from the pandemic). This means, for each subject, results at national level are likely to be higher than they were in 2019, and lower than they were in 2022.

As this is a national approach rather than school-specific, and due to the different assessment arrangements and grading that has taken place in response to the lasting effects of the pandemic, it is all the more important that we avoid making any comparisons to results from other years, at either national, regional or school level. I would like to reiterate that this summer's set of examination results data, and later on the Key Stage 4 interim measure data that will be provided through the All Wales Core Datasets, should not to be used to judge or compare schools, and should not be used to drive decisions that are not in the best interest of learners, while it will be a valuable source of information in supporting schools in their self-evaluation.

I would like to remind colleagues that the Welsh Government will once again facilitate the transfer of WJEC examinations results data to Local Authorities, as in previous years, through the [Data Exchange Wales Initiative \(DEWi\)](#) secure system. This will include results by subject at a school and Local Authority level and should take place on the respective results days: 17 August for A-Level results and 24 August for GCSE results. I hope that you find this helpful and that it will support your own processes as you consider the examination results this year. With these arrangements in place, **I ask that Local Authorities do not also request this data directly from schools to avoid any unnecessary burdens being placed on them.**

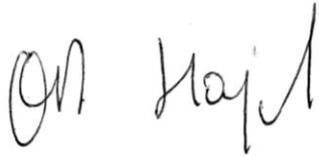
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Should you have any further questions, please contact my colleagues via the IMS@wales.gov mailbox.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owain Lloyd'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'O'.

Owain Lloyd

Director of Education and the Welsh Language