

Request

9th September 2020

With reference to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the attention of the CEO RNN Group

I respectfully ask the following questions and would be grateful for the information within the 20 day required period.

To conform to the Data Protection Act I do not want identifiable information of any individual any reference to students or staff by name is not required. Students may be A, B, and so on it is purely the data and procedures I require.

With reference to the English GCSE moderation and submissions of grades 2020.

How many student's grades were submitted?

How many passed grade 4 or above?

How many received grade 3 or lower?

How many have appealed their grades?

How many have been successful?

How many have failed in their review or appeal?

How many grades were moderated up from the class teacher's recommendation?

How many grades were moderated down from the class teacher's recommendation?

Detailed information of the data and process used in the CAG grading.

It is my understanding that instructions came from OFQUAL regarding grading, how it should be done and the process of submissions, will you provide me with those details?

It is also my understanding OFQUAL have instructed you how to deal with an appeals process will you provide me with those details too.

Our Ref: FOIA174

Your Ref: N/A

Date: 24th September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST (FOI): Question's relating to the English GCSE moderation and submissions of grades 2020.

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 11th September 2020. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Any correspondence regarding this should be addressed to FOI@rnn.ac.uk

Please note that we will be providing a response on behalf of the RNN Group as a whole, rather than any individual college or organisation within the Group.

The RNN Group main centres of operations are located at the following sites:

Site Name	Address
Rotherham College	Eastwood Lane, Rotherham. S65 1EG
North Nottinghamshire College	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Dinnington Campus	SITE NO LONGER IN OPERATION*
Dearne Valley College	Wath upon Dearne, Swinton. S63 7EW
University Centre Rotherham	Doncaster Gate, Rotherham. S65 1DJ
RNN Training	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Idle Valley Rural Centre	North Road, Retford. DN22 8SG
Construction Centre Rotherham	Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham. S60 1RU
Skills Centre Shireoaks	SITE NO LONGER IN OPERATION*
National Fluid Power Centre	Carlton Road, Worksop. S81 7HP
Create Skills Ltd	SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CEASED TRADING*
Charnwood Training	SUBSIDIARY COMPANY CEASED TRADING*
Aston Recruitment & Training	Gold Street, Northampton. NN1 1RA
Rotherham Education Services	Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington. S25 2NF
Retford Post 16 Centre	Old Hall Drive, Retford. DN22 7EA
Nottinghamshire Children & Family Partnership	PARTNERSHIP HAS CEASED*

*Data from these sites have been re-located to other centres within the RNN Group, and if applicable, have formed part of the search for the information requested.

Please find below a response to your questions:

With reference to the English GCSE moderation and submissions of grades 2020.

How many student's grades were submitted? **777**

How many passed grade 4 or above? **250**

Rotherham Eastwood Lane, Rotherham, S65 1EG (Administrative Office)

Dinnington Doe Quarry Lane, Dinnington, S25 2NF

Worksop Carlton Road, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S81 7HP

Dearne Valley Manvers Park, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7EW

www.rnn.ac.uk enquiries@rnn.ac.uk 01709 362111

How many received grade 3 or lower? 527

How many have appealed their grades? 74

How many have been successful? No grading was changed

How many have failed in their review or appeal? No grading was changed

How many grades were moderated up from the class teacher's recommendation?
Response to follow (PART 2)

How many grades were moderated down from the class teacher's recommendation?
Response to follow (PART 2)

I request detailed information of the data and process used in the CAG. Procedure is attached to the email

It is my understanding that instructions came from OFQUAL regarding grading, how it should be done and the process of submissions, will you provide me with those details?
Please see link below

It is also my understanding OFQUAL have instructed you how to deal with an appeals process will you provide me with those details too. Please see link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-guidance-on-appeals-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-summer-2020/summary-guidance-on-appeals-malpractice-and-maladministration-complaints-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-in-england>

Please note, whilst you have exercised your right to information under FOI, the RNN Group may not release some data it has on record. For example, if it contains personal details of individuals or if other exemptions apply, as detailed within the FOI legislation. See the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) website for further details as to what this means to you and the request you have made:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/what-is-the-foi-act/>

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA, and in keeping with the RNN Group's transparency agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you may now be published on the Group's website at www.rnngroup.co.uk/IG together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Appendix A giving contact details, should you be unhappy with the service you have received from the RNN Group in regards to this FOI request.

If you have any queries about this letter then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards.

The RNN Group Information Governance Team

Appendix A

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under chapter 36, part 1, section 17 (7) of the Freedom of Information Act or under chapter 12, part 6, section 165 of the Data Protection Act (Article 57(1)(f) and (2) and 77 of the General Data Protection Regulations), within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

A copy of our complaints process can be found on the RNN Group web site by following the link below and selecting the Feedback and Complaints section:

<https://www.rnngroup.co.uk/IG>

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review of your complaint, the DPA gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted the RNN Group's own complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to set out the process by which GCSE English and maths examination grades will be awarded as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent cancellation of all examinations.

2. GCSE Grading Methodology

2.1 Tutors will gather a range of evidence using the pre-set criteria outlined in section 4 below to estimate the grade they believe each learner would have most likely achieved if teaching, learning and examinations had taken place as planned. Once this has been done, they should input this information onto the central tracking document.

2.2 Maths & English Leads (MELs), in collaboration with tutors, will review the evidence gathered outlined above to rank the order of learners, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements, allowing for the fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges.

2.3 These two pieces of information will be sent by the Assistant Principal (AP) with responsibility for maths & English to the examination board to enable them to standardise grades across schools and colleges to make sure, as far as possible, results are fair and that learners are not disadvantaged.

3. Quality Assurance Activities

Quality assurance activities will be carried out by Curriculum Managers (CMs), English & maths specialists from the Quality Improvement (QI) team and the AP. This is to ensure accuracy of grades and rankings. Quality assurance activities will include checks of all criteria outlined in section 4 below and will commence at the “rank order” (2.2) stage of this process.

4. Schedule of Activities

The table below outlines the schedule of activities which should take place to ensure responsibility for activities and deadline dates are clear and adhered to:

Date	Task	Responsibility
24 April 2020	Central tracking document to be created to ensure a consistent approach to the gathering and recording of evidence.	Maths & English Coaches
24 April 2020	Meeting to be arranged to discuss & agree pre-set criteria.	AP, CM, MELs

1 May 2020	All grading criteria to be gathered (2.1 above).	Tutors
8 May 2020	All rankings to be completed. This includes Speaking & Listening for GCSE English (2.2 above).	MELs & tutors
11 May 2020	Quality assurance activities to be arranged & carried out. Actions arising from activities to be communicated to teams.	AP, CM, QI, MELs
25 May 2020	Actions arising from quality assurance activities to be completed.	All
26 May 2020	Quality assurance of final grades/rankings to take place.	QI
29 May 2020	Final list of grades & rankings to be submitted to external examination boards and internal exams teams (2.3 above).	AP

4. **Compilation of Evidence**

The following evidence should be gathered for every learner enrolled on to a maths and/or English GCSE programme and entered on to the central tracking document:

- 4.1 Qualifications on Entry;
- 4.2 Result of September 2019 diagnostic test;
- 4.3 Result of October 2019 progress assessment;
- 4.4 Performance in mock assessment paper 1;
- 4.5 Performance in mock assessment paper 2 (maths only);
- 4.6 Professional judgement which should include information on the following:
Effort; Attendance; Behaviour/Attitude.

The comments section of the tracking document should only contain information on how extenuating circumstances may have affected one or more of the above criteria, but not learner performance.

5. **Communication**

Final results and rankings cannot be shared outside of those involved in this process. GCSE results will be issued to learners on GCSE Results Day (20 August 2020).

6. **Changes or Amendments to this Procedure**

This procedure could be subject to change as further information is released by Ofqual, Eduqas, Government and/or other official bodies.

Our Ref: FOIA174 (PART 2, Final)

Your Ref: N/A

Date: 30th September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST (FOI): Question's relating to the English GCSE moderation and submissions of grades 2020 – PART 2 (Final)

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 11th September 2020. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

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Attached to the corresponding email is the Procedure for the Awarding of GCSE maths & English Grades.

The explanation points below support this process:

1. Tutor approximates grade
2. Internal standardisation process followed (criteria determined by Ofqual, details provided), grading was determined by RNN Group which in some cases, differs from point 1 above
3. Grading internally quality assured
4. Examining board notified, this is the moderation process

The answers to your questions are below:

Q: How many grades were moderated up from the class teacher's recommendation?

A: 184

Q: How many grades were moderated down from the class teacher's recommendation?

A: Zero

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