



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
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21 January 2022

Mr Zhu

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Tēnā koe Mr Zhu

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 4 December 2021, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

According to your website, Candidates may apply for a review or reconsideration of their results for externally assessed NCEA standards and New Zealand Scholarship subjects.

1) The following questions are about reconsideration (If you think your answer booklet has not been assessed (or 'marked') correctly, you can apply for a reconsideration. A reconsideration involves reassessing all answers in the answer booklet using the original assessment schedule, in other words, re-marking it. It also involves checking mechanical processes, like transferring grades.) and please list externally assessed NCEA achievement standards (the ones that go up to Excellence) and Scholarship subjects SEPARATELY; for at least 5 years.

- a) How many externally assessed NCEA achievement standards and New Zealand Scholarship subjects (not numbers of students) are applied to be reconsidered each year and its percentages in comparison to the total marked?*
- b) How many of those reconsideration results in a grade change (increase in grade) each year?*
- c) Have any been marked down (decrease in grade) each year? even if those aren't reflected in students' results.*
- d) How many have been identified as using correcting fluid, pencil or erasable pens each year?*

2) The following questions are about review (In a review all sections of a booklet or portfolio are checked to make sure they have been marked and result correctly recorded and transferred. A review does not involve re-marking) and please list externally assessed NCEA achievement standards (the ones that go up to Excellence) and Scholarship subjects SEPARATELY; for at least 5 years.

- a) How many externally assessed NCEA achievement standards and New Zealand Scholarship subjects (not numbers of students) are applied to be reviewed each year and its percentages in comparison to the total marked?*
- b) How many of those review results in a grade change (increase in grade) each year?*
- c) Have any been marked down (decrease in grade) each year? even if those aren't reflected in students' results.*
- d) How many have been identified as using correcting fluid, pencil or erasable pens?*

3) Whether or not are policies in place to prevent the same marker that originally marked the student's standard/subject to be reconsidering or reviewing the same student?

4) Whether or not are policies in place to prevent the marker from just "do nothing"? eg: not re-marking.

5) What are your policies, if the process results in a decrease in grade?

6) On the following questions, please list both externally assessed NCEA achievement standards (the ones that go up to Excellence) and Scholarship subjects SEPARATELY, for at least 5 years.

a) What are the total amount of standards/subjects marked each year?

b) How many answer booklets have been determined by NZQA to be "altered" and have resulted in an investigation for a breach of examination rules?

c) What is the outcome of that investigation? including any sanctions imposed.

Response:

In response to the questions you have outlined in the Official Information Act request on reviews and reconsiderations we provide the following responses:

In May 2021, NZQA published the *2020 Annual Report on NCEA, University Entrance and NZ Scholarship data and statistics* (<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/About-us/Publications/stats-reports/NCEA-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>). Please also refer to the pages listed below for additional information to your queries:

- Questions 1a – b, refer to page 73, Table 17. *Numbers and percent successful for Reconsiderations of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020*. See also response to Question 1a below.
- In response to question 1c and 2c regarding the mark down of grades, please refer to the response provided for Question 5.
- Questions 2a – b, refer page 72, Table 15. *Numbers and percent successful for Reviews of NCEA and Scholarship from 2016 to 2020*. See also response to Question 2a below.
- For questions regarding scholarship information refer also to pages 51–57, NZ Scholarship.

In reference to Questions 1d and 2d, NZQA does not gather information regarding correcting fluid, the use of pencil or erasable pens. However, for your reference, pp 75–76 *Breaches of Examination Rules* of the 2020 Annual Report includes information about types of breach and nature of breach.

Question 1a:

Reconsiderations of External Achievement Standards (NCEA) from 2016 to 2020			
Academic Year	Assessed Results- NCEA	Applications for reconsideration- NCEA	Percentage of applications for reconsideration in comparison to overall number of assessed results- NCEA
2016	1,040,429	9,099	0.87%
2017	988,990	9,772	0.99%
2018	924,267	8,435	0.91%
2019	879,946	8,414	0.96%
2020	794,823	8,566	1.08%

Reconsiderations of NZ Scholarship from 2016 to 2020			
Academic Year	Assessed Results- NZ Scholarship	Applications for reconsideration- NZ Scholarship	Percentage of applications for reconsideration in comparison to overall number of assessed results- NZ Scholarship
2016	13,379	405	3.03%
2017	14,255	356	2.50%
2018	13,118	329	2.51%
2019	12,604	400	3.17%
2020	13,110	421	3.21%

The percentage of applications is calculated through the formula: Applications for reconsideration/Assessed Results*100=Percentage of applications. All percentages have been rounded 2 decimal places.

Question 2a:

Review of External Achievement Standards (NCEA) from 2016 to 2020			
Academic Year	Assessed Results- NCEA	Applications for review- NCEA	Percentage of applications for review in comparison to overall number of assessed results- NCEA
2016	1,040,429	407	0.04%
2017	988,990	312	0.03%
2018	924,267	277	0.03%
2019	879,946	324	0.04%
2020	794,823	380	0.05%

Review of Scholarship from 2016 to 2020			
Academic Year	Assessed Results- Scholarships	Applications for review- Scholarship	Percentage of applications for review in comparison to overall number of assessed results- Scholarship
2016	13,379	5	0.04%

2017	14,255	4	0.03%
2018	13,118	4	0.03%
2019	12,604	3	0.02%
2020	13,110	3	0.02%

The percentage of applications is calculated through the formula: Applications for review/Assessed Results*100=Percentage of applications. All percentages have been rounded 2 decimal places.

Question 3:

NZQA standard procedure is that under regular circumstances if a student applies for a grade reconsideration the Panel Leader undertakes the reconsideration. In the instance the Panel Leader was the original marker the reconsideration is passed on to a Senior Marker. However, in the instance an examination was marked by one single marker, the reconsideration is conducted by this same marker.

Question 4:

If a student applies for a grade reconsideration, the new marker will conduct the reconsideration using a green pen. The marker reconsidering the candidate response will underline in green where they agree with the original marker, or cross out and write a new grade with the green pen. The marker is also expected to sign any changes and initial in green beside the box on the front of the booklet. This is a check to ensure they have completed the reconsideration.

Question 5:

NZQA's policy is to not decrease a grade as a result of a review or reconsideration. If a candidate applies for a reconsideration and the reconsidered grade is lower than the original grade, then the original grade stands. This has been NZQA policy since 2002.

Question 6a:

The table provides the total number of assessed results for externally assessed achievement standards and NZ Scholarship respectively:

Academic Year	External Achievement Standards Assessed Results	NZ Scholarship Assessed Results
2016	1,040,429	13,379
2017	988,990	14,255
2018	924,267	13,118
2019	879,946	12,604
2020	794,823	13,110

Questions 6b & 6c:

Please see the table below on the number of booklets altered, investigations undertaken and the outcomes.

Altered booklets & Investigation Outcomes				
Year	Booklets altered	Number of candidates	Investigation	Outcome
2015	0	-	-	-
2016	0	-	-	-
2017	2	1	Review	Results withheld
2018	1	1	Reconsideration	Result withheld
2019	0	-	-	-
2020	2	2	Reconsideration	Result withheld
				Result release

We note your request for information for at least 5 years outlined in questions 1, 2 and 6. The information supplied and released into the public domain is information with a date range of 2015-2020. If you required information regarding the 2021 academic year, we will be able to supply you this in early 2022. This is due to the timing of the 2021 exam results release and our ability to

compile the required information and have it in a suitable state for public release. Please contact ministerials@nzqa.govt.nz.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact ministerials@nzqa.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Nāku nā



Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive