

Letter from the Commission on School Reform regarding ChatGPT

Dear Sue Webber MSP

The Commission on School Reform wanted to alert you to an article in the Sunday Times by Commission on School Reform members Carole Ford and Frank Lennon (“ChatGPT has put a spanner in the works of the qualifications review in Scotland”) highlighting the potential problems surrounding the development of ChatGPT and its impact on coursework assessments. Frank, a former English teacher as well as school head, asked the AI to produce a sonnet, one of the assessment choices for Nat 5 English. It did so in a matter of seconds and of a standard which he felt could be awarded good marks. As they say in the article, there is a lot of good that the AI can also be used for, but the SQA also needs to be aware of the potential for abuse and we hope that it is being addressed by the SQA and the Hayward review.

Best wishes,
Alison Payne