

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

Jenny Gilruth MSP

a b c d

F/T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Douglas Ross MSP

Convenor

Education, Children and Young People Committee

The Scottish Parliament

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Dear Douglas,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to lay an order to allow appointments to be made to the Qualifications Scotland Board.

The intention is for Qualifications Scotland to become fully operational in Autumn 2025. Qualifications Scotland will be listed as a regulated body under schedule 2 of the 2003 Act by a consequential amendment included in the Bill, in order to ensure that appointments will be regulated by the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.

As the appointments process would need to begin before that happens, I intend to make an Order under section 3(3) of the 2003 Act, which would mean that Qualifications Scotland would be treated, from the date that the order comes into force, as if it were a specified authority listed in schedule 2 to that Act. As Parliament has approved the general principles of the Bill, I have now laid a draft order under section 3(3) of the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act").

An order under section 3(3) is subject to affirmative procedure and, as such, requires to be laid before Parliament for approval.

I hope the Committee agrees that these proposals represent a sensible approach to facilitating the establishment of the new body in a timely and effective way.

JENNY GILRUTH

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

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