

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

8th Meeting, 2021 (Session 6), 1 December
2021

PE1875: Public inquiry into the Scottish Qualifications Authority

Note by the Clerk

Lodged: 24 June 2021

Petitioner Jordon Anderson

**Petition
summary** Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to order a public inquiry into the actions of the Scottish Qualifications Authority during academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Webpage petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1875

Introduction

1. This is a continued petition that was last considered on [22 September 2021](#).
2. At that meeting, the Committee decided to write to the Scottish Government about the petition and in doing so, to clarify whether the remit of the public inquiry into the response to Covid-19 will include the SQA.
3. The Committee has received 3 written submissions in connection with this petition.

Scottish Government submission

4. In its submission of 24 June 2021, the Scottish Government highlighted the recent [review of the Curriculum for Excellence](#) which was carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

5. All 12 of the review's recommendations were accepted in full by the Scottish Government, including recommendations on curriculum, assessment and qualifications which will see the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) replaced and Education Scotland substantially reformed. Professor Ken Muir CBE has been appointed as an independent advisor to lead this work.
6. In its written submission of 2 November 2021, the Scottish Government responded to the Committee's question about whether the SQA would be considered as part of a future public inquiry into the handling of Covid-19.
7. The Scottish Government states that under the Inquiries Act 2005, Scottish Ministers will establish an independent public inquiry into the handling of the Coronavirus pandemic in Scotland 'with the purpose of scrutinising decisions taken in the course of this pandemic so far and learning lessons for future pandemics.'
8. The Scottish Government confirms that public engagement took place earlier this year about a draft aims and principles paper for this inquiry and that this will help inform the terms of reference, which will be agreed between Ministers and the Chair of the inquiry, once they have been appointed.
9. The Scottish Government reiterates that 'decisions about the scope of this Scottish public inquiry are yet to be taken' and that 'this includes matters raised in this petition.'

Education, Children and Young People Committee

10. The Education, Children and Young People Committee has recently undertaken work on both the Alternative Certification Model, which was used to award results for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in session 2020-21 and the OECD report.
11. As part of its work on the Alternative Certification Model, the Committee took informal evidence from young people.

Action

The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe

The following submissions are circulated in connection with consideration of the petition at this meeting -

- [PE1875/C: Scottish Government submission of 2 November 2021](#)

Written submissions received on the petition be viewed on its [webpage](#).