

Education, Children and Young People Committee

Wednesday 19 February 2025
6th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Higher History Review 2024

Introduction

1. Following publication of the outcomes of this year's National Qualifications on 6 August 2024, concerns were raised about the standards applied in the marking of examinations in Higher History. Following these concerns, the SQA Chief Examiner commissioned SQA's Head of Standards to carry out a review.
2. On 6 November 2024, the SQA wrote to the Committee highlighting the publication of the findings of that review. [The findings are published in full on the SQA website.](#)
3. At its meeting on [4 December 2024](#), the Committee took evidence from:
 - Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills
 - Clare Hicks, Director, Education Reform, Scottish Government
 - Fiona Robertson, Chief Executive & Martyn Ware, Director of Policy Analysis and Standards, SQA
4. During that session, the Cabinet Secretary highlighted her engagement with the Scottish Association of Teachers of History (SATH) on the findings of the SQA's review.
5. The Committee then took evidence from SATH at its meeting on 22 January 2025. Papers for that meeting, including a SPICe briefing on the SQA Review, have been published on the [website](#).
6. After the papers for the meeting had been published, [SATH provided a summary of a survey](#) it had conducted with its members regarding the SQA's Higher History Review.

Committee meeting

7. At its meeting today, the Committee will take evidence from:
 - Shirley Rogers, Chair, John Booth, Director of Communications and Donna Stewart, Interim Director of Qualifications Development, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Committee Clerks
February 2025