

In connection with the consultation on 'Marking reviews, appeals, grade boundaries and Code of Practice' we would like to make general points rather than respond in detail.

Our response is made using our particular expertise in admission and subsequent progression of students to a wide range of HE courses.

**Summary: We believe that there should continue to be clear, detailed and uniform requirements on all awarding bodies. HE admission tutors need this to make equitable decisions. Schools and students need this so that they do not have to 'game' exam board choices, or find incidental features putting them at a disadvantage.**

Part A 'Review of marking and appeals of GCSEs, AS and A levels'.

Question 1: We are in broad agreement with the points made.

Question 2: Here we have serious concerns. We do not believe that Ofqual should allow exam boards' approaches to differ in any of the areas (a),(b),(c) or (d). In particular, the timescale for review of marks which may be wrong must be uniform across boards, since delays may have a critical effect on admission to HE and post-GCSE courses.

Part C Withdrawing the Code of Practice

Question 5: We do not agree with the proposed withdrawal of the code of practice. We believe that the detailed code is useful, and necessary to ensure appropriate procedures that are consistent across differing awarding bodies. We do not believe that the proposed new approach would ensure this. While there continue to be a multiplicity of awarding bodies clearly specified, detailed procedures are required. The code itself can of course be subject to periodic review.