From: Sent: 24 August 2012 18:27 To: RE: Welsh Government and GCSEs
Thanks. Astonished by LA's public statements. And also concerned about TES orchestrating protest campaign about results.
From: Sent: 24 August 2012 18:14 To: Subject: Fw: Welsh Government and GCSEs
Fyi .
From: Sent: Friday, August 24, 2012 06:09 PM To: - CRC; Cc: Subject: Welsh Government and GCSEs
After a couple of email exchanges with this morning he rang to tell me the outcome of their deliberations at their end.
First they are not expecting Leighton Andrews to say anything more publicly and LA is about to go on holiday until 1 September.
Officials are proposing an internal enquiry in Wales into GCSE English results — to be led by
He recognises that we jointly regulate GCSEs.
The enquiry will look at
1. The process that got us to where we are today. He will want to find all the correspondence there is between us and Welsh Government on these matters, and any correspondence we have had with the SoS (this will not be an FO request – not appropriate)
2. The implications of the results for "banding" of schools – the equivalent of league tables
3. The role of WJEC – I checked and second is aware of this enquiry
4. Lessons for future work as a joint regulator.
The timescale is unclear but they will need to have made some progress on this by the time the Minister is back on

I said we would want to help them in any way we can. The ball is in their court to ask.

10/9.

Sent:

11 September 2012 11:34

To:

- CRC

Cc:

- Media Relations

Subject:

Latest comments on twitter from Leighton Andrews



Leighton Andrews @LeightonAndrews

Meanwhile, the Chair of Ofqual appears to be paid £40,000 a year to make political comments.



<u> eighton Andrews @LeightonAndrews</u>

The Chief Executive of Ofqual knows that we gave them more time to see our report before it was published, than they gave us to see theirs.

- Direct: Office: 0300 303 3344 Mobile:
- 1410 Spring Place, Herald Avenue, Coventry Business Park Coventry West Midlands CV5 6UB

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Sent:

11 September 2012 17:24

To:

- CRC:

Subject:

FW: Leighton Andrews on break up of 3 country system and GCSE branding

fi



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From:

Sent: 11 September 2012 16:26

To:

Subject: Leighton Andrews on break up of 3 country system and GCSE branding

To see as I think you're leading on 3 country?

http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/politics/2012/09/michael-gove-does-not-own-gcse-brand-we-do



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Sent: 11 September 2012 17:30

To:

- CRC

Cc:

Subject:

FW: Welsh Government - Minister issues Direction to WJEC on English GCSE re-

grade

DeHavilland Alert

Welsh Government - Minister issues Direction to WJEC on English GCSE re-grade

Tue, 11 September 2012 | Welsh Assembly Government Press Release

Contents

Tuesday 11th September 2012

Minister issues Direction to WJEC on English GCSE re-grade

Minister for Education and Skills Leighton Andrews has today issued a direction to WJEC to re-grade this summer's GCSE English Language results for qualifications delivered in Wales.

On 10 September the Minister asked regulatory officials to write to WJEC seeking an undertaking that they would re-grade the qualification. No such undertaking has been received. As a result the Minister has formally issued that Direction this afternoon.

The Minister said, "Yesterday I published a serious, thorough and detailed report from my regulatory officials which stated that this year's awards were unfair to candidates. It is not right that hundreds of our learners should have to live with the consequences of having been awarded what, in all likelihood, is the wrong GCSE grade.

"We are fortunate in Wales that we have a regulatory system which allows swift resolution of injustice. We have acted to protect the interests of students in Wales, by issuing the Direction to the WJEC."

Ends

Notes to editors:

Following the publication of GCSE results in August, the Minister asked officials to undertake a Review of the GCSE English Language results. The Minister for Education and Skills accepted the recommendations of that report and as a consequence made a request to WJEC to make a undertaking to the Welsh Ministers to regrade the qualification. WJEC have made no such undertaking and the Minister for Education and Skills has agreed to issue a direction enforcing the exam board to undertake the regarding.

Welsh Ministers' powers relevant to this submission are as follows:

Part 5 of the Education Act 1997 provides the Welsh Ministers with a range of functions relating to the regulation of qualifications in Wales. In particular, section 30 of the 1997 Act allows the Welsh Ministers to keep under review all aspects of 'relevant qualifications', to set criteria for the recognition of persons who award 'relevant qualifications' and to recognise persons according to those criteria. Section 32 of the 1997 Act also enables the Welsh Ministers to place ongoing conditions of recognition on persons who are recognised to award 'relevant qualifications' under section 30.

The WJEC is an awarding organisation recognised under section 30 of the 1997 Act and is subject to the Welsh Government Conditions of Recognition issued under section 32 of that Act. As such, the above powers are relevant to the recommendations listed in this submission. Section 32A4 of the Education Act 1997 provides that the Welsh Ministers, if it appears that any recognised person 'has failed or is likely to fail to comply with any condition subject to which the accreditation has effect' and where that failure 'prejudices or would be likely to prejudice the proper award or authentication of the qualification' the Authority may direct the awarding body to take or refrain from taking specified steps with a view to securing compliance with the conditions subject to which the accreditation has effect.

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Sent:

12 September 2012 15:58

To:

- CRC

Cc:

- Media Relations

Subject:

Ofqual mention: Plaid Cymru - Recall Assembly Committee to get to the bottom of

GCSE debacle

All - FYI

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Welsh Political Party Press Release

Plaid Cymru - Recall Assembly Committee to get to the bottom of GCSE debacle

Wed, 12 September 2012

Contents

Recall Assembly Committee to get to the bottom of GCSE debacle 12/09/2012

Plaid Cymru AM Simon Thomas has written to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee, Christine Chapman, asking for her to recall the committee during recess so Assembly Members can scrutinise the actions of the WJEC and the Welsh Education Minister about the GCSE row.

Plaid's Education spokesperson Simon Thomas AM said:

"We've been calling for better regulation of exams for months, before this GCSE row blew up. I have written today to the Chair and Clerk of the Children and Young People Committee of the National Assembly asking for a recall of the committee to get to the bottom of the decisions made by the WJEC and the Welsh Education Minister during the GCSE debacle. It is important that Assembly Members are able to properly scrutinise the decisions made by the Welsh Minister and by the exam board. This would strengthen the accountability of the Welsh Government as an exam regulator."

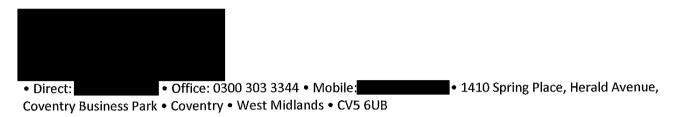
"The Westminster committees have been able to question and scrutinise both ministers and the regulator. As Leighton Andrews is both minister and regulator here in Wales, it is even more vital that we get the earliest opportunity to scrutinise his actions."

"A Plaid Cymru government would have introduced a new single exam system in Wales. It is time for the Welsh Government to shoulder its responsibilities. Students may eventually get the grades they deserve but no thanks to Education Ministers in Wales and England. The exam system in both countries after recent events will have a low level of credibility internationally."

The Mid and West AM has also tabled a series of written questions to the Welsh Government, about when powers to instruct remarking have been used by the Education Minister in the past; what discussions has the Minister had regarding changing grade boundaries with the WJEC and **OFQUAL**.

From:
Sent: 12 September 2012 18:23
To: RE: Speaking with

Nothing significant. You may have seen that Leighton Andrews has hit back publicly against Gove's comments in the select committee this morning. I suggest you make clear to that we are not getting involved in the political debate; we want to be a good regulator, objective and fair - we will maintain standards, but we do not want to cause undue difficulties for students, including those in Wales, though we think they will be getting a raw deal from this.



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Sent:

12 September 2012 22:09

To:

Subject:

Re: Welsh public reaction

Hmmn.

We should speak in the morning. I should ask you to consider a letter to Leighton Andrews -oil on troubled waters-but you may chose not to. A matter for you, but worth talking through.



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Dear

Thank you for your letter of 16 September.

As we discussed last week, you are right. In my answers to two questions from the chair of the Select Committee, I confused our challenges to WJEC's A levels and GCSEs. That was evident at the time, and Cath made that clear at the time. But to be absolutely clear, I have notified the committee clerk and asked that the record is amended.

You mention also our chair's answer to a question from the chair of the Select Committee about re-grading in Wales. Amanda very much regrets the offence that her remarks have caused to the Minister. She trusts that we will on both sides be able to overlook past incidents, and concentrate on regulating effectively in the interests of all students and all those who rely on qualifications.

As I have said before, three country regulation relies on good working relationships. We are committed to that.

From: Sent:	20 September 2012 10:28
To: Subject:	RE: The Leighton Andrews dilemma
	ed to acknowledge the correction, but there is no need to say anything which can be o the Minister, whose whole behaviour is a clear demonstration of why independent
From: Sent: 20 September 2012 0 To: Subject: The Leighton Andr Importance: High	
I have been talking this	through with
view is that Leighton will continue to stalk the mo	e letter is fine but, as he so rightly says, it puts us on the back foot. His li Tweet triumphantly that he's got an apology from Ofqual, and will bral high ground, cheered by those who want a regarding, even though it is porly as regulator and diplomat.
that you will refuse to sa says publicly that he's o	e should use your comments as a bargaining chip: say privately to ay anything unless (i) Leighton stops Tweeting criticisms of us and (ii) he committed to the three country framework and to working with Ofqual and f he refuses to do so, we could consider a formal (and private) complaint to ry.
I am copying this to - your views? And yours	- for wise advice. I am attracted to what proposes. But
Best wishes	
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From: Sent: To:	20 September 2012 10:33
Subject:	RE: The Leighton Andrews dilemma
and I do find myself suppose Leighton A in any case that unl	my concerns yesterday about how anything from me on this might be misused f agreeing with and any statement he might make now as binding. We know less the policy direction in both England and Wales changes it is only transition long term relationship.
J	It this may mean it takes longer a little to settle things down. But at the end of regulation team has responsibilities to Welsh children, and cannot refuse to

From: Sent: 20 September 20	012 09:34
To: Subject: The Leighton Importance: High	Andrews dilemma
zmportancer riigii	
I have been talking	this through with
view is that Leighto continue to stalk the	of the letter is fine but, as he so rightly says, it puts us on the back foot. His in will Tweet triumphantly that he's got an apology from Ofqual, and will be moral high ground, cheered by those who want a regarding, even though it is ed poorly as regulator and diplomat.
that you will refuse says publicly that h	at we should use your comments as a bargaining chip: say privately to to say anything unless (i) Leighton stops Tweeting criticisms of us and (ii) he e's committed to the three country framework and to working with Ofqual and or. If he refuses to do so, we could consider a formal (and private) complaint to retary.
I am copying this to - your views? And y	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
• Office: • 1410 Spring Place, Ho	• Mobile: Mobile: Park • Coventry • West Midlands • CV5 6UB

From: Sent: To:	20 September 2012 16:24
Cc: Subject:	Walsh letter - update [*]
Importance:	High
and I have spok	cen with
yesterday, to speak with	more tricky than it was. The first minister for Wales was at no. ten today or n our prime minister - and made a statement afterwards, I think on the was in response to media questions about GCSE English.
He said three things:	
 he - helpfully - sa 	education minister Leighton Andrews aid that what we need to do now is to move forward chair's remarks at the select committee were unprecedented, and wrong.
	or the last 24 hours. I asked whether his minister is prepared to commit to a. I thought that would help our chairman to recognise Leighton Andrew's
Meanwhile, the letter se receiving press enquirie	ent to us asking for the apology is now on their website, and we are es.
	vait and see what please comes back with - but please ou wish to adopt if we get nowhere with our request for the commitment to the commitment secretary but it is not likely to get us
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Sent:

20 September 2012 16:35

To:

- CRC;

Cc:

Subject:

FW: Michael Gove to Leighton Andrews & John O'Dowd (CONSULTATION WITH

DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS)

Attachments:

Letter to Michael Gove MP.PDF; [Untitled].pdf

For info - exchange between Ministers in the three countries.



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From:

@education.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 20 September 2012 15:54

To:

Subject: FW: Michael Gove to Leighton Andrews & John O'Dowd (CONSULTATION WITH DEVOLVED

ADMINISTRATIONS)

Apologies. I should have sent this to you yesterday for info. It's our Secretary of State's reply to the joint letter from the Wales/NI Education Ministers about consultation on qualifications reform, also attached.

Best wishes

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster, SW1P 3BT

Tel

From: PS, Sec-OF-STATE

Sent: 19 September 2012 13:17

To: 'PS Minister for Education and Skills';

Cc:

Subject: Michael Gove to Leighton Andrews & John O'Dowd (CONSULTATION WITH DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS)

Find attached response from Michael Gove to Leighton Andrews & John O'Dowd

Re: CONSULTATION WITH DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

Also copied to the Secretaries of State for Wales and Northern Ireland

Secretary of State's Private Office
Department for Education

7th Floor Sanctuary Buildings | Great Smith Street | Westminster | SW1P 3BT



www.education.gov.uk



Department for Education

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for Education and Skills

@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK] On Behalf Of PS Minister

for Education and Skills

Sent: 19 September 2012 12:23

To: PS Minister for Education and Skills; PS, Sec-OF-STATE

Cc:

Subject: Leighton Andrews / John O'Dowd RE: Joint letter to Michael Gove from the Minister for Education and Skills in Wales and the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland (Our reference: MB/LA/3253/12)

Good afternoon,

The Minister for Education and Skills has asked if the Secretary of State has considered the joint letter of 1 August please?

Thank you

Senior Private Secretary to Leighton Andrews AM
Prif Ysgrifenyddes Preifat i Leighton Andrews AC
Minister for Education and Skills
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Cabinet Division/ Is-adran y Cabinet
Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru

Any of the statements or comments made above should be regarded as personal and not necessarily those of the Welsh Government, any constituent part or connected body. Dylai'r datganiadau neu'r sylwadau uchod gael eu trin fel rhai personol ac nid o reidrwydd fel datganiadau neu sylwadau gan Lywodraeth Cymru, unrhyw ran ohono neu unrhyw gorff sy'n gysylltiedig ag ef.

From:		On Behalf Of PS Minister for Education and Skills
Sent:	01 August 2012 14:00	
To:	'Sec-OF-STATE.PS@education.gsi.gov.uk'	
Cc:		

Subject: Joint letter to Michael Gove from the Minister for Education and Skills in Wales and the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland (Our reference: MB/LA/3253/12)

Please see attached correspondence from the Welsh Government Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Education in Northern Ireland.

This letter has been copied to the Secretary of State for Wales for information.

<< File: Letter to Michael Gove MP.pdf >> Kind regards,



Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru

Tel/ Ffôn: ______Fax/ Ffacs:

E-mail: <u>ps.minister.for.es@wales.gsi.gov.uk</u> Ebost: <u>yp.gweinidog.dros.as@cymru.gsi.gov.uk</u>

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CONSULTATION WITH DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

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Xnt or rhmbdodkx+

LEIGHTON ANDREWS AM

Minister for Education and Skills

JOHN O'DOWD MLA

Minister for Education



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT tel: 0370 0002288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus

Leighton Andrews AM Minister for Education and Skills Welsh Government Cardiff Bay CARDIFF CF99 1NA

John O'Dowd MLA
Minister for Education
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

19/1 September 2012

Des Minister,

CONSULTATION WITH DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 1 August 2012 about consultation with the devolved administrations about GCSE and A level reform, and whether we might put in place protocols to ensure appropriate liaison prior to announcements.

I agree that communication on our respective reforms to qualifications is important, and am glad that my officials briefed yours in advance of my announcement this week on examination reform. We have launched a 12 week consultation on our plans to replace the current GCSE with a rigorous new qualification, the English Baccalaureate Certificate. I am keen that our officials should continue to discuss our respective plans so that where different qualifications are offered, they are well understood and no students are disadvantaged. Where similar qualifications continue to be used across the three countries the regulators will decide how best to achieve common standards

In terms of general expectations on sharing plans about policy announcements and consultations, I note that our officials will soon be bringing forward to us draft bilateral Concordats which will set out expectations. This work should provide a helpful basis for communication between us on qualifications reform, as in other areas of policy. I do not think that a meeting on this issue is necessary, at this stage.

We have already agreed that we would organise a Ministerial discussion on reform of A levels with Mr O'Dowd. Elizabeth Truss, who is now the Minister responsible for qualifications reform, would be happy to honour that commitment. Following your joint letter, perhaps Mr Andrews might join that meeting, with an agenda broadened to cover reform of qualifications at 16 in our respective administrations. The Minister's office will be in touch shortly to agree a suitable date and time.

It would not, of course, be appropriate for that meeting to include discussion of the grading of English GCSEs this year which is the responsibility of the independent qualifications regulator, Ofqual, in England.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

f- s.

MICHAEL GOVE

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	20 September 2012 17:54 RE: Tweet from Leighton Andrews (@LeightonAndrews)	rews)
Importance:	High	
But I think the trouble is wit	th what Amanda actually said:	
' I think there is a political of performance between Eng they are based on our work	lifficulty in Wales. In what we are seeing the lish and Welsh candidates. If English candid k, the implication is that Welsh candidate pel lifficult conclusion for the Welsh to accept po	lates are where we think rformance is not
on a robust, thorough and	that his decision to regrade - the 'what we s timely report from his regulatory staff - nothing that the decision was beyond the minister's	ng political in it, he would
	me sorts is in order - but let us see if we can nead of it.	get the commitment to
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From:		
Sent: 20 September 2012 17:36 To: Cc:	ton Andrews (@LeightonAndrews)	

As I understand it, the quarrel is with the words 'politically motivated'. These can be interpreted in more than one way.

Might it be appropriate, in responding to the Welsh Government, to say first that setting out ultimatums and shouting at the other party is not a good way to express continued commitment to three country regulation; second, to offer the explanation of Glenys' evidence set out in the earlier draft, and third to note that the statutory position as between England and Wales differs: in Wales, the final decision is a political one, for the Minister to take (and that was what Amanda was pointing out). In England, Parliament has decided on a different approach, whereby an independent regulator is finally accountable for its decisions. Her comment should not be represented as implying that Mr Andrews' decision went beyond his powers, and Ofqual is happy to offer that clarification... Now can we please get back to our joint commitment to good regulation in the interests of learners.....

From:

Sent: 20 September 2012 16:26

Subject: FW: Tweet from Leighton Andrews (@LeightonAndrews)

Turns out the first minister said 'unprecedented', not 'unprecedented and wrong' - by the look of it.

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From:

Sent: 20 September 2012 16:21

Subject: FW: Tweet from Leighton Andrews (@LeightonAndrews)

See below – Leighton Andrews's Tweet from 14. 24 today.

Links to:

1. The letter to us

2. First Minister comment carried on BBC Wales Political Correspondent blog

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