

# Response to TES story about centre assessment grades

News story

A statement about the role of centre judgements in this summer's awarding.



Although exams and assessments have been cancelled, most students will still be able to progress to further study or employment as planned with results which carry the same value as any other year. We know teachers worked extremely hard to deliver this year's arrangements and the majority of grades students receive will be the same as their centre's judgements – reflecting the skills, professionalism and integrity of those involved.

Final grades this summer will be calculated using both centre assessment grades and a rank order of students provided by the centre. Centre judgements will then be moderated by exam boards, to make sure the standard is consistent between schools and colleges. It is wrong to conclude that centre judgements will be adjusted simply because they have gone through the moderation process. There will only be adjustments where they are needed to ensure fairness for students.

Centres with lower entries, overall or in particular subjects, will have more weight placed on their centre judgements because that is the more reliable source of evidence in these circumstances. We will publish full details of the moderation process, including details for low entries, next week.

Where centres have evidence of an error, or that the moderation process did not produce reliable results for their students, they may appeal.

Results for students will almost always be broadly in line with centres' and teachers' expectations, and the awarding process has been designed to allow leniency where this can be done without undermining fairness.

For more information about awarding this year, [read our latest blog](#).

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# 21-year-old Manchester rapist sentenced for longer

News story

A man who raped a 15-year-old when he was 19 has had his sentence increased following the intervention of the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.



A man who raped a 15-year-old when he was 19 will be sentenced for longer following the intervention of the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.

In early 2019, the offender invited the victim to his home in Manchester. When he tried to kiss the victim twice, she told him to stop and pushed him away. He then proceeded to lock her inside his bedroom, force himself upon the victim, and rape her.

The victim immediately went to the police station and reported the crime to the police.

On 18 June, the offender was originally sentenced at Manchester Crown Court to 20 months for rape.

Following the Solicitor General's intervention under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme, the Court of Appeal today increased his sentence to 3 years' custody.

Commenting on the increase, the Solicitor General said:

"This offender's actions have brought significant distress and psychological harm to a vulnerable victim and her family. I am pleased that the judge has agreed to increase the offender's sentence in order to take into account the harm that he inflicted through this attack."

## [Dogger Bank scallop closure extended](#)

Scallop fishing in the North Sea around Dogger Bank will be suspended for a further three weeks until 23:59 on 29 August following preliminary analysis of the state of the shellfish stock.

Since the initial four week closure was brought in on 12 July, sampling by Cefas using their survey ship Endeavour has demonstrated that scallops in the area are currently either spawning or about to spawn.

After reviewing the early stock samples, the four Fisheries Administrations (FAs) have determined a three-week extension is needed to finish data gathering, produce a detailed analysis of the research and to start preparing a longer term management plan for the affected sea areas.

The extension will also enable stock in a wider area to finish spawning before fishing restarts and allow for a second consultation with industry if it's required.

The closure covers ICES rectangles 37F1, 37F2, 37F3, 38F1, 38F2, 38F3, 39F1 and 39F2 in the Dogger Bank. Fishing licences will be varied to reflect the situation.

The FAs have continued to work with the UK scallop industry and appreciate the ongoing efforts of the industry to support sustainable scallop fishing around Dogger Bank.

The FAs remain committed to liaising with the scallop industry throughout the closure, during the review and in any subsequent decisions or actions that result from the data gathering.

Jim Portus is Chief Executive of South West Producer Organisation and Chairman of the Scallop Industry Consultative Group.

He said: "The scallop industry has been keen to engage with Defra and the devolved Fisheries Administrations in co-management of various fisheries, and the new Dogger Bank fishery has been no exception.

"We share government objectives to harvest all stocks sustainably for maximum benefit in the marine environment, for the good of our coastal fishing communities and to ensure the economic viability of all in the supply chain, including in the important fish processing units and among crucial exporters.

"Having been informed by Defra earlier this week that the specially commissioned North Sea CEFAS survey shows spawning still ongoing on many parts of the Dogger Bank, and is yet to begin in some areas, there was no

hesitation in agreeing the Defra proposed additional three weeks closure.

“The industry would, of course, want Defra and the FAs to consult more fully with the industry and the wider supply chain if any further extension of the closure is contemplated or advised. “

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## [£14million of cocaine and amphetamines seized by Border Force](#)

Border Force has seized more than £14million of cocaine and amphetamines after stopping a lorry in Coquelles, the juxtaposed control for the Eurotunnel in France.

The detection was made at about 11:10pm on Wednesday 29 July, after officers stopped the lorry which was on its way to the UK from the Netherlands.

The drugs were found hidden within a load of flowers.

Border Force officers searched the lorry and found that each container of sunflowers and roses had a false floor. The floor of each of the 43 containers was unscrewed and 35 of them were found to contain an estimated 250kg of cocaine and 169kg of amphetamine. The cocaine has an estimated street value of more than £12.5million. The amphetamine is believed to be worth over £1.7million.

The operation and extraction of the illegal drugs took more than 12 hours and the detection of such a high quality concealment is testament to the skill and dedication of the officers involved. It is one of the largest commercial drugs seizures in the UK this year.

Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts Chris Philp said:

The sale of drugs such as cocaine and amphetamine fuels gang violence leading to the exploitation of vulnerable children.

This seizure is an excellent example of the crucial work Border Force does every day to prevent illegal drugs entering the UK in the first place.

We will do all we can to stop these heinous gangs and keep the public safe.

Border Force Director Ian Hanson said:

This was a sophisticated concealment. The smugglers had skilfully built a false floor into each container and this would have been undetectable to the untrained eye.

Following the Border Force detection, the seizure was referred to the National Crime Agency.

Border Force officers are the front line in protecting the country and play a key role in detecting illegal immigration, disrupting serious and organised crime and helping to prevent the threat of terrorism. Border Force also protect the UK's revenue, contributing to the nation's prosperity and growth.

They use an array of search techniques including sniffer dogs, carbon dioxide detectors, heartbeat monitors and scanners as well as visual searches to find well-hidden stowaways, illegal drugs, firearms and tobacco which would otherwise end up causing harm to people, businesses and communities.

Anyone with information about activity they suspect may be linked to smuggling should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to [www.gov.uk/report-smuggling](http://www.gov.uk/report-smuggling).

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## **Regulator opens statutory inquiry into Birmingham-based education charity, after continued non-compliance with governance requirements**

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into the Birmingham Education Trust over concerns about the management of the charity by its trustees



The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into the Birmingham Education Trust ([1064365](#)), over concerns about the management of the charity by its trustees.

The charity funds and operates a school in Birmingham, which includes the promotion of the teaching of Islam to Muslim girls.

The Commission opened a compliance case into the charity in March 2019, to examine its repeated failure to comply with its statutory duty to file its accounts and annual returns. The case then identified wider concerns, including that the charity was operating in breach of its governing document in having only two trustees who were husband and wife. This also raised concerns about potential unmanaged conflicts of interest.

The Commission issued the trustees with an action plan to address and rectify the concerns, but the trustees have failed to demonstrate progress. The case has therefore been escalated to a statutory inquiry, which opened on 21 July 2020. The new inquiry will further examine the concerns identified at the charity, including whether:

- the charity has been operating for exclusively charitable purposes for the public benefit in furtherance of their charitable objects
- the financial controls of the charity are adequate, and their funds have been properly expended and can be accounted for
- the trustees of the charity have complied with their legal duties in respect of their administration, governance and management of the charity
- the trustees' compliance with legal obligations for the content, preparation and submission of the charity's accounts and other information or returns is in line with the statutory requirements
- potential conflicts of interest and connected party transactions have been properly managed
- the trustees have complied with previously issued regulatory guidance.

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional regulatory issues emerge.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](#).

**Ends.**

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. The Commission does not have a role in the regulation of education provision. Ofsted and the Independent Schools Inspectorate are the

responsible bodies for ensuring schools meet educational standards. Our role, as charity regulator, is to ensure that trustees of charities are complying with charity law requirements.

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