



Professor Dame Muffy Calder
BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
3 Newbridge Square
Swindon
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1 December 2021

Our Ref: OFQ0002986

By email to: Maxine.Leslie@bcs.uk

Dear Professor Dame Calder,

Thank you for your letter and for the detailed review you have undertaken and shared with Ofqual of data on student performance in GCSE Computer Science. The analysis raises some questions that I find warrant further investigation.

I have instructed colleagues, therefore, to consider the approach that Ofqual could take to work in this area and the evidence that could be collected. As you may be aware, we made clear as part of our work on inter-subject comparability that we do not believe any statistical evidence can be relied on in isolation, and that such evidence must be treated with caution. In addition, changes to the GCSE Computer Science specifications since 2016, and the absence of exams in 2020 and 2021, mean that there are challenges to establishing a wide enough evidence base to achieve reliable and valid analysis. In short, whilst Ofqual is going to look into this matter as a priority, please note that this may take some time.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk to you in the New Year about the work Ofqual has planned. To that end, my colleague Sarah Old will be in touch with you in due course to organise this.

As I am sure you are aware, it would be premature to assume that our research will find evidence that any action should be taken, but you have my assurance that we will deploy the tools and data at our disposal to investigate this as thoroughly as we are able.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo Saxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

JO SAXTON, PhD
CHIEF REGULATOR