

2022 ADVISORY GROUP ON PLANNING FOR STATE EXAMINATIONS

BY WEBEX, 30th August 2022

Draft Note of Meeting

Present

	Name	Organisation/Position
Joint Chair	Dalton Tattan (DT)	Assistant Secretary General
Joint Chair	Andrea Feeney (AF)	Chief Executive Officer, SEC
Students	Caitlin Faye Maniti	President, ISSU
	Jack McGinn	Education Officer, ISSU
Parents	Mai Fanning	President, NPC PP
	Kieran Christie	General Secretary, ASTI
	Michael Gillespie	General Secretary, TUI
School managers and leaders	Paul Thornton	On behalf of John Irwin, ACCS
	Paul Fields	Director of Schools, ETBI
	Paul Crone	Director, NAPD

	John Curtis	JMB
NCCA	Barry Slattery	NCCA
State Examinations Commission	Richard Dolan	SEC
	Elaine Sheridan	SEC
Department of Education	Celeste O' Callaghan	Principal Officer
	Declan Power	Executive Officer
	Paul Keating	Assistant Principal Officer
	Neville Kenny	Principal Officer
	Clodhna O'Neill	Principal Officer
	Orlaith O'Connor	Inspector
DFHERIS	Siobhan Sleeman	Assistant Principal Officer
Higher Education	Breda Corr	HEA (Observer)

Apologies

Aine Lynch – NPC (P)

Harold Hislop – Chief Inspector

Yvonne Keating – Deputy Chief Inspector

1. Welcome

The Joint Chair (DT) welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

2. Minutes to be agreed

The group agreed the minutes of the previous meeting of 03.05.2022.

3. Results 2022:

The SEC gave an update on the 2022 State Examinations. They noted that while there were very significant challenges in relation to recruiting examiners for the 2022 examinations, nevertheless a sufficient number of Leaving Certificate examiners were recruited. The SEC provided assurance that the marking had been completed following all of the normal quality assurance procedures. It was confirmed that the Leaving Certificate (LC) results would issue on 2 September 2022, as previously announced.

The Junior Certificate (JC) marking was ongoing. The Joint Chair (AF) thanked all involved for their assistance with the efforts made to recruit examiners for the marking process. She also thanked ETBI for its role in the deferred examinations and

expressed thanks to the principals of the 29 ETB schools which acted as venues.

The SEC outlined important upcoming dates set out below:

- LC results 2/9/2022
- Online application to view scripts 6/9/2022-7/9/2022
- Viewing of scripts online 10/9/2022-11/9/2022
- Viewing of manually marked scripts 10/9/2022
- Application to appeal 10/9/2022-12/9/2022
- A guide to the process including important dates to be issued to students on 1/9/2022. A guide to understanding the results by subject to also be published.

It was asked if there had been any problems for students intending to continue their studies in universities abroad given the timing of the LC results this year. They were advised that a small number of students had engaged with the Department to seek assistance on issues with the universities they had applied to, and most cases had at this stage been resolved satisfactorily. It was noted that, if students are having issues in this regard, they should contact the Department through the LCInfo mailbox.

4. Examinations and Assessment Arrangements 2023

The Inspectorate outlined the background to examination adjustments for the LC 2022 exams. The Group was then asked to consider what adjustments, if any, should be considered for the LC examination in 2023. The consensus was that adjustments in line with those announced in August 2021 for

the 2022 examinations would be appropriate for the 2023 exams. Group members strongly expressed the view that the announcement regarding this should be made as soon as possible to provide clarity to students, parents and teachers. The Group also agreed that they would not favour any year for the “cliff edge” to be implemented and that the adjustments should be gradually unwound.

In regard to dates for Oral examinations and the music practical performance test, the Joint Chair (DT) advised, following a discussion on this issue at which all of the partners contributed their views, that this would be informed by a review to be undertaken following LC2022 results.

5. Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group

The Joint Chair (DT) reflected that since its establishment in April 2020, the Advisory Group had a powerful role and had been very significant over the past number of years. He noted that it would be timely to consider the terms of reference for the group, given its establishment in the context of Covid. The existing terms of reference will be recirculated to the group with a request for return of any obs to DoE by 16/9/2022.

6. AOB

The Teachers' Unions and the NPCPP expressed dissatisfaction in relation to the engagement with their organisations on issue of a press release. The Joint Chair (DT) indicated openness to meeting on this or any such issues, but noted the particular press release was not a matter for this group.

