



**Strict embargo: Not for publication or broadcast before 00.01
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JCQ's response to the launch of the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator

Dr Jim Sinclair, Director of JCQ, said: "JCQ awarding bodies welcome the launch of Ofqual and its announcement to carry out a 'health check' on the reliability of the assessment system.

"As experts in the field of assessment and research, JCQ members will work with Ofqual to ensure that the interests of the learner come first and that the qualification system continues to be both robust and offer world-class qualifications, which will provide users with confidence in their achievements."

Ends.

For further information please contact Richard Rose on 0207 638 4134.

Notes

1. The JCQ consists of AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, Edexcel, OCR, SQA, and WJEC, the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK, offering GCSE, GCE, AEA, Scottish Highers, Entry level, Vocational and Vocationally-related qualifications.
2. The JCQ was established in January 2004 and supersedes the Joint Council for General Qualifications (JCGQ, 1998-2003). The JCQ has been formed to enable the member awarding bodies to act together in
 - Providing, wherever possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications;
 - Dealing with the regulators; in responding to proposals and initiatives on assessment and the curriculum;
 - Dealing with the media on issues affecting all member Bodies.