

## Media Release

### High Court success in battle against sale of fake examination certificates online

Earlier this year, Joint Council for Qualifications<sup>CIC</sup> (JCQ), acting on behalf of its members, shut down the website ‘replacement-certificates.co.uk’ from supplying fake examination certificates. The awarding bodies took action against the website which was offering fake GCSE, A-level and other certificates at prices of around £400.

Upon ordering an injunction stopping the website ‘replacement-certificates.co.uk’ from providing the fake certificates, and an inquiry as to damages and indemnity costs, the High Court Judge noted the “flagrant infringement of the trade mark” that had occurred. The trademarks are the legal property of the awarding bodies that JCQ represents. As a supplemental deterrent, those responsible for the website were also required to display a notice on the website publicising the High Court’s decision.

Michael Turner, Director General, JCQ said:

“We are delighted with this result. It sends a strong message to those supplying unauthorised certificates, and to those purchasing them, that such fraudulent activity will not be tolerated. This is part of an ongoing campaign to stamp out the trade in fake certificates. It is important for the protection of the public that any certificate bearing the trademark of one of our members can be relied upon as evidence that the qualification has been properly attained.”

The JCQ website contains advice about the services awarding bodies provide for candidates who have lost or misplaced their certificates. For example, candidates holding GCSE, or GCE O and A-levels can request certified statements of results as a replacement for lost certificates, even where (following a merger or change in name) the awarding body no longer exists. The fee for a certified statement of results is less than £50.

-Ends-

Notes to editors

- For information on where to obtain replacement certificates please click JCQ  
Frequently asked questions: lost certificates.
- The JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> comprises AQA, CCEA, City & Guilds, OCR, Pearson, SQA and WJEC – the seven largest providers of qualifications in the UK. The JCQ<sup>CIC</sup> is a membership organisation and enables member awarding bodies to act together in providing, where possible, common administrative arrangements for the schools and colleges and other providers which offer their qualifications; and responding to proposals and initiatives in assessment and the curriculum.
- Media contacts: The JCQ’s press office can be contacted on: 020 7227 0671/020 7638 4132/07905 683 816