

ADES ADVICE ON SQA RESULTS SERVICE

In April 2014, SQA introduced the new Results Services to support pupils undertaking externally assessed National Qualifications. There are two new services. The Exceptional Circumstances Considerations Service operates prior to publication of the exam results and replaces absentee consideration. The Post Results Services replaces the former system of assessment appeals, which operated following the publication of exam results.

The **Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service** operates before results are published. The Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service supports pupils who have been unable to attend an externally-assessed timetabled examination, or whose performance in the examination may have been fundamentally affected as a result of an incident beyond their control. Exceptional Circumstances fall under two categories – **Personal Circumstances** or **Examination Circumstances**.

Personal Circumstances include a close family bereavement, a medical condition (where a pupil is incapacitated and may be unable to attempt the assessment. Minor ailments are not considered to be exceptional circumstances), domestic circumstances (such as a pupil being a victim of crime shortly before an examination, a member of the pupil's close family being rushed to hospital the night before the examination, a member of the pupil's close family having a long-term medical condition and there is a sudden deterioration of their condition during the examination period) or an exceptional absence (such as coincident examinations, appearance at court, national representation at sporting events, religious observance, etc.).

SQA's Handbook for Invigilators sets out procedures to manage many unplanned interruptions or disturbances during examinations. Where the Chief Invigilator feels that the examination has been disrupted to such a degree that pupils have been disadvantaged, and where the disruption has not been provided for in the Handbook for Invigilators, the Chief Invigilator may produce a report, detailing the circumstances of the disruption. This, accompanied