



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD  
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

11 October 2016

Louise Towers  
HOD Mathematics  
John Paul II High School  
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Dear Louise

Thank you for your email and letter of 19 September about the 2016 Mathematics Common Assessment Task (MCAT). We do regret that the changes in this year's MCAT have caused concern as we endeavour to ensure that assessment aligns with the teaching and learning, and with the standard.

It is clear from the feedback that the communication processes we used in 2015 and 2016 to convey the changes to align the assessment to the standard were not adequate to ensure schools were fully informed, and NZQA fully acknowledges this. We appreciate teachers' concerns, and we know from our day to day contact with schools the efforts that teachers are making to engage students in mathematics and to build confidence in undertaking external assessment.

We are reviewing the way we communicate changes to ensure that this works as it should for schools. That will also include ensuring that we provide more exemplification of changes, and we have received considerable feedback on this need.

We will also ensure that all the feedback we have received is thoroughly reviewed when we undertake the assessment report that we complete following each MCAT. This will be available early next year and it will also inform the development of the 2017 MCAT.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Kilkelly'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kristine Kilkelly  
Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment