



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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

11 October 2016

Juliet Collins, Assistant Principal - Curriculum
Craig Bradley, Leader of Mathematics and Statistics Faculty
Rangi Ruru Girls' School
j.collins@rangiruru.school.nz

Dear Juliet and Craig

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.

However, I appreciate that your principal concern is to do with the assessment itself, and thank you for the detailed comments you provided on the assessment and the questions. While we are not able to comment on these points until after the marking and examination period is concluded, we will ensure that your comments are reviewed and addressed as part of an assessment report on the 2016 MCAT. This will be published early next year. It will also inform the development of the 2017 MCAT.

We would also be very happy to discuss your comments on the questions then. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to call me if you there is anything further you want to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Kilkelly'.

Kristine Kilkelly
Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment