

26 September 2016

Jake Wills
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Dear Jake

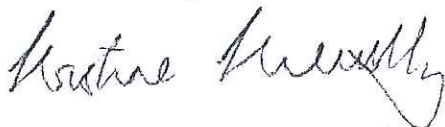
I promised to get back to you in response to the points you raised in your email to me on Friday.

In reply to your questions about the team responsible for setting and checking the MCAT assessment, the team consists of six experienced mathematics teachers, most of whom are current heads of departments in secondary schools. As such they are all familiar with the appropriate level of the *New Zealand Curriculum* and also with the Senior Secondary Curriculum Guides, and how they are currently used in schools.

You raised a question about any differences in difficulty between the two MCAT assessments. This is one of the main reasons for the benchmarking process. In examinations this process is carried out to ensure consistency from year to year. In the MCAT year on year consistency is addressed, as well as the fact there are two assessments in the same year. Candidate responses to both MCATs are considered and fair assessment schedules are only released when we can be confident a candidate's result will not be affected by the assessment that they completed.

You will appreciate that it would not be appropriate for NZQA to discuss the details of specific questions while any normal marking process is underway. The assessment schedule will be published along with a detailed assessment report in Term 1, 2017. The comprehensive feedback you have provided on the tasks will, as is our normal practice, be forwarded to the assessment development team for their consideration as they prepare the 2017 MCAT assessment.

Yours sincerely



Kristine Kilkelly
Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment