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The RSS comments on the plans for 2021 school exams

Sharon Witherspoon, Royal Statistical Society Vice-President for Education and Statistical Literacy, said:

“While a system of teacher awarded grades will help avoid some of last year's issues around the awarding of qualifications, we need to see more detail. We understand that schools will be provided with results from previous years as a guide, but there is no information on how teachers should – or even could - use these data.

“The process of maintaining external quality assurance is even less clear. If exam centres are to be reviewed based on both random sample and risk, it suggests historical results will play a part. We would like to see transparency from exam boards about the sorts of changes from historical patterns that might trigger an external quality check in the next stage of guidance.”