

The Highland Council
ADULT AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
21 August 2013

Agenda Item	8.
Report No	ACS/68/13

SQA 2013 – Initial Analysis

Report by Director of Education Culture and Sport

Summary

This report provides an initial analysis of SQA results in Highland schools in 2013.

1. Background

- 1.1 According to the SQA website, over the period from April 26 – June 7 2013, candidates across Scotland sat 720,000 exams, in addition to coursework and unit assessments completed throughout the year. They did so at nearly 550 schools and colleges with the examinations being set, monitored, marked and quality assured by nearly 15,000 SQA appointees – teachers, lecturers and other subject specialists.
- 1.2 On Tuesday 6 August SQA results were sent by text message, email and post to 150,986 candidates, across Scotland. The figure is down from 158,908 in 2012, largely as a result of the expected fall in the number of candidates being entered early for qualifications in S3.

2. The Highland Picture

- 2.1 The statistics on the attached documents are based on the number of candidates enrolled in September of S4 who went on to achieve passes in S4, and later in S5 and S6. All results are pre-appeal.
- 2.2 Overall, the strong showing of recent years has been maintained apart from the normal fluctuations that can appear in successive years. Behind the statistics, there are many outstanding individual and group performances.
- 2.3 While annual statistics are useful, trends over a five year period are more informative.
- 2.4 A more detailed analysis will follow later in the year when post –appeal and comparator school data is published.
- 2.5 In S4, results were up on last year. The number of candidates achieving 5+

level 4 awards rose to a five year high of 83.1%. At Level 5 there was also a 5 year high with 41.1% of candidate achieving 5+ awards.

- 2.6 The difference in attainment between female and male at Level 4 was 2.1%, down 2.5% on last year. At Level 5, the difference between female and male attainment was 9.3%, up 2.9% on last year.
- 2.7 In S5, the small, year on year improvements in the number of candidates achieving 3+ awards at Level 6 (Higher) continued with a fifth rise, this time of 0.4%, to a five year high of 27.6%. The number of candidates achieving 5+ awards at Level 6 decreased slightly from 12.4% to the five year average figure of 11.6%. Across Highland, a total of 55 candidates passed 5 Highers at A pass.
- 2.8 The difference between female and male attaining 3+ passes at Level 6 narrowed from 8.2% to 7% and from 4.1% to 3.1% at 5+ Level 6 passes. The % difference between females and males passing Higher English was 12.3%. In Higher Maths, the difference was 0.9%.
- 2.9 In S6, the number of candidates achieving 3 passes at Level 6 was exactly the same as 2012 but the % figure was slightly down (0.3%). At Level 7, 440 candidates passed at least one Advanced Higher.
- 2.10 The difference between S6 females and males passing Higher English was 5.4% but in Higher Maths males performed better than females with a 2.5% difference in their favour.

3. College Results

- 3.1 A growing number of Higher courses are offered to school candidates by Highland colleges. Passes achieved via college Highers have not yet been factored in to the statistics in section 2.
- 3.2 Inverness College offered Highers in Architectural Technology, Business Management, Early Education and Childcare, Human Biology, Media Studies, Psychology and Sociology. A total of 53 passes were achieved – 20 As, 19 Bs and 14 Cs. North Highland College offered Highers in Early Education and Childcare and Psychology. There were 50 passes – 30 As, 13 Bs and 7 Cs. All results are pre-appeal. In both Colleges, Higher Psychology was the most popular and accounted for most of the passes.

4. Implications

- 4.1 There are no Resource, Legal, Climate Change and Risk implications as a result of this report. There continue to be gender differences in most attainment categories that are the subject of ongoing research by Quality Improvement Officers and will feature in future work by the ECS Equalities Working Group.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the initial analysis of this year's SQA results and to congratulate the young people of Highland on their successes in this year's exams.

Designation:

Date: 7 August 2013

Author: Calum MacSween, Head of Education

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 S4 Attainment Pre - Appeal

Appendix 2 S5 Attainment Pre - Appeal

Appendix 3 S6 Attainment Pre - Appeal

Appendix 1 S4 Attainment Pre Appeal

All Pupils			Award English Level 3 or Above		Award Maths Level 3 or Above		Awards English & Maths at Level 3 or Above		5+ Awards at Level 3 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 4 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 5 & Above		1+ Award at Level 6	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Roll</i>	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	2655	2553	96.2%	2522	95.0%	2490	93.8%	2460	92.7%	2206	83.1%	1090	41.1%	37	1.4%
	2012	2585	2449	94.7%	2426	93.8%	2383	92.2%	2352	91.0%	2053	79.4%	949	36.7%	25	1.0%
	2011	2765	2610	94.4%	2616	94.6%	2564	92.7%	2523	91.2%	2236	80.9%	1019	36.9%	41	1.5%
Highland Totals	2010	2710	2568	94.8%	2573	94.9%	2530	93.4%	2483	91.6%	2199	81.1%	1048	38.7%	26	1.0%
	2009	2789	2653	95.1%	2668	95.7%	2606	93.4%	2558	91.7%	2252	80.7%	1048	37.6%	24	0.9%

Female Pupils			Award English Level 3 or Above		Award Maths Level 3 or Above		Awards English & Maths at Level 3 or Above		5+ Awards at Level 3 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 4 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 5 & Above		1+ Award at Level 6	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Roll</i>	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1300	1254	96.5%	1233	94.8%	1223	94.1%	1206	92.8%	1094	84.2%	595	45.8%	18	1.4%
	2012	1256	1191	94.8%	1183	94.2%	1160	92.4%	1148	91.4%	1027	81.8%	502	40.0%	17	1.4%
	2011	1372	1302	94.9%	1297	94.5%	1277	93.1%	1253	91.3%	1139	83.0%	568	41.4%	23	1.7%
Highland Totals	2010	1321	1252	94.8%	1247	94.4%	1234	93.4%	1205	91.2%	1077	81.5%	556	42.1%	18	1.4%
	2009	1387	1325	95.5%	1323	95.4%	1298	93.6%	1270	91.6%	1152	83.1%	590	42.5%	13	0.9%

Male Pupils			Award English Level 3 or Above		Award Maths Level 3 or Above		Awards English & Maths at Level 3 or Above		5+ Awards at Level 3 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 4 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 5 & Above		1+ Award at Level 6	
	<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Roll</i>	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1355	1299	95.9%	1289	95.1%	1267	93.5%	1254	92.5%	1112	82.1%	495	36.5%	19	1.4%
	2012	1329	1258	94.7%	1243	93.5%	1223	92.0%	1204	90.6%	1026	77.2%	447	33.6%	8	0.6%
	2011	1393	1308	93.9%	1319	94.7%	1287	92.4%	1270	91.2%	1097	78.8%	451	32.4%	18	1.3%
Highland Totals	2010	1389	1316	94.7%	1326	95.5%	1296	93.3%	1278	92.0%	1122	80.8%	492	35.4%	8	0.6%
	2009	1402	1328	94.7%	1345	95.9%	1308	93.3%	1288	91.9%	1100	78.5%	458	32.7%	11	0.8%

Appendix 2 S5 Attainment Pre Appeal

All Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		1+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 Grade A	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	2585	654	25.3%	449	17.4%	1231	47.6%	713	27.6%	300	11.6%	55	2.1%
	2012	2765	711	25.7%	469	17.0%	1332	48.2%	752	27.2%	344	12.4%	71	2.6%
	2011	2710	666	24.6%	509	18.8%	1265	46.7%	727	26.8%	322	11.9%	47	1.7%
Highland Totals	2010	2789	619	22.2%	484	17.4%	1254	45.0%	731	26.2%	307	11.0%	49	1.8%
	2009	2885	661	22.9%	501	17.4%	1245	43.2%	720	25.0%	324	11.2%	64	2.2%

Female Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		1+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 Grade A	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1256	397	31.6%	224	17.8%	643	51.2%	392	31.2%	166	13.2%	28	2.2%
	2012	1372	438	31.9%	238	17.3%	727	53.0%	430	31.3%	199	14.5%	42	3.1%
	2011	1321	388	29.4%	245	18.5%	661	50.0%	390	29.5%	169	12.8%	24	1.8%
Highland Totals	2010	1387	369	26.6%	243	17.5%	700	50.5%	413	29.8%	166	12.0%	24	1.7%
	2009	1446	412	28.5%	255	17.6%	691	47.8%	404	27.9%	191	13.2%	42	2.9%

Male Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		1+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 Grade A	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1329	257	19.3%	225	16.9%	588	44.2%	321	24.2%	134	10.1%	27	2.0%
	2012	1393	273	19.6%	231	16.6%	605	43.4%	322	23.1%	145	10.4%	29	2.1%
	2011	1389	278	20.0%	264	19.0%	604	43.5%	337	24.3%	153	11.0%	23	1.7%
Highland Totals	2010	1402	250	16.7%	241	17.2%	554	39.5%	318	22.7%	141	10.1%	25	1.8%
	2009	1439	249	17.3%	246	17.1%	554	38.5%	316	22.0%	133	9.2%	22	1.5%

Appendix 3 S6 Attainment Pre Appeal

All Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		1+ Award at Level 7	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	2765	276	10.0%	146	5.3%	483	17.5%	5	0.2%	440	15.9%
	2012	2710	279	10.3%	148	5.5%	483	17.8%	10	0.4%	443	16.3%
	2011	2789	270	9.7%	160	5.7%	467	16.7%	9	0.3%	474	17.0%
Highland Totals	2010	2885	229	7.9%	147	5.1%	460	15.9%	6	0.2%	440	15.3%
	2009	2909	225	7.7%	132	4.5%	385	13.2%	7	0.2%	363	12.5%

Female Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		1+ Award at Level 7	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1372	174	12.7%	55	4.0%	271	19.8%	1	0.1%	254	18.5%
	2012	1321	176	13.3%	66	5.0%	262	19.8%	9	0.7%	234	17.7%
	2011	1387	175	12.6%	66	4.8%	266	19.2%	6	0.4%	272	19.6%
Highland Totals	2010	1446	145	10.0%	62	4.3%	260	18.0%	1	0.1%	249	17.2%
	2009	1409	128	9.1%	65	4.6%	225	16.0%	1	0.1%	208	14.8%

Male Pupils			Awards English Level 6		Awards Maths Level 6		3+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		5+ Awards at Level 6 & Above		1+ Award at Level 7	
	Year	Total Roll	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
	2013	1393	102	7.3%	91	6.5%	212	15.2%	4	0.3%	186	13.4%
	2012	1389	103	7.4%	82	5.9%	221	15.9%	1	0.1%	209	15.0%
	2011	1402	95	6.8%	94	6.7%	201	14.3%	3	0.2%	202	14.4%
Highland Totals	2010	1439	84	5.8%	85	5.9%	200	13.9%	5	0.3%	191	13.3%
	2009	1500	97	6.5%	67	4.5%	160	10.7%	6	0.4%	155	10.3%