



OCR's six paragraph statement to Channel 4 News: 17 May 2012

Clara Kenyon, OCR Qualifications Director, said: "OCR deeply regrets the unacceptable mistakes which occurred in the transcribing and totalling of marks on some of its examination scripts last summer. We have processes for checking the total marks awarded to each script, but mistakes can occur in a system where examiners mark using pen and paper on hard copy scripts. We apologise unreservedly to affected schools, students and their parents; this should never have happened.

"For current and future examinations we have introduced new stages into the checking of manually-marked scripts and we are confident that this will ensure a high level of clerical accuracy. Furthermore, 75.96 per cent of scripts are marked on-screen and the marks are captured and totalled electronically. Our programme for marking all examinations on-screen has been accelerated, with a target of 100 per cent by 2014.

"Last summer, following actions taken by warehouse staff it was decided to halt initial work in order to fully assess the real scope of the problem properly. We also kept the regulator Ofqual informed of our actions during this process. OCR assessment experts then carried out a formal and extensive investigation; checking the scripts of over 1,100 examiners. In only a few cases did this affect the overall grade; 8 students' AS grades, 2 A Level grades and 6 GCSE grades improved as a result.

"Our investigation also resulted in the termination of four examiners' contracts and we instructed 78 others (out of 13,000) to improve their performance. Virtually all of OCR's examiners are teachers or ex-teachers with a relevant degree.

"We were not told of the existence of these additional scripts with mistakes on them until schools contacted us. This is of course a concern and we are processing them in the usual way and will make grade changes, if required, and inform schools.

"Students taking exams both in the spring and this summer can be assured that mistakes of any sort will not be tolerated and we have taken the necessary measures to guard against them."