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OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
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2 July 2014

Dear Joanna

OCR Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Problem Solving

On behalf of the Royal Statistical Society, I am pleased to write to you in support of this qualification, following our consideration of the specification dated July 2014 and your follow-on email.

The Royal Statistical Society's response to the DfE Policy Statement on 16 to 18 Core Mathematics Qualifications in England of February 2014 and our response to the Department for Education's consultation on Core Maths Technical Guidance of May 2014 (both available on our website), clearly indicate what features we would like to see the Core Mathematics qualifications to have, namely to:

- contain the full statistics cycle;
- have statistics content that is up-to-date and relevant to target students, in their everyday lives and in higher education or in work;
- ensure students gain experience of working with datasets, especially realistic ones;
- have students work with data using IT.

We also expressed a preference for data handling to be assessed and thought that innovative external assessment, eg through the use of pre-release datasets would be beneficial.

We are pleased to see these in the qualification, in particular the use of pre-release datasets for the teaching and assessment of using a large dataset, and the extensive opportunities for students to develop their statistical skills in the Statistical Problem Solving component.

Yours sincerely



Scott Keir
Head of education and statistical literacy

