

# DE DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING EXERCISE

## Project Name:

Public Consultation – The Future of CCEA GCSEs, AS levels and A levels

**Directorate:**  
Qualifications, 14-19 and Statistics & Research

**Team:**  
Qualifications Reform Team

## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

There is a pressing need for CCEA to begin a programme of work reviewing and revising their suite of GCSE, AS level and A level specifications in line with the statutory duty to keep its qualifications under review. The TransformED strategy has committed to a full review of all of CCEA's Key Stage 4 and post-16 qualifications. The first step in the review process is for the Department of Education to set out the overarching qualifications policy framework which will guide the review of CCEA specifications. This framework sets the rules and principles on which qualifications should be developed, including structure, content, assessment and grading. A consultation will, therefore, seek views on the proposed policy framework for reviewing and revising CCEA's GCSE, AS, and A level qualifications.

## 2. STAKEHOLDERS

### *Stakeholders:*

- Pupils and their parents/carers/guardians
- All schools and other education and training establishments
- The education workforce (including teachers; classroom assistants; college lecturers, tutors)
- Managing Authorities (including Education Authority; Council for Catholic Maintained Schools)
- Boards of Governors
- Controlled Schools Support Council
- Catholic Schools Trustee Service
- NI Council for Integrated Education
- Governing Bodies Association
- Transferor Representatives Council
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- Trade Unions or Professional Organisations
- Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI)

## 2. STAKEHOLDERS

### ➤ Departmental Staff

This Data Protection Impact Assessment relates to respondents to the public consultation, during which DE plans to gather views on the policy framework to inform the Revision of CCEA GCSEs, AS levels and A levels

## 3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PERSONAL DATA INVOLVED

DE expects to collect limited personal information. When replying to the consultation, respondents will be asked to provide their name and email address, together with the sector / group they represent. A Privacy Notice will accompany the consultation explaining what personal information will be collected and how it will be treated.

## 4. PRIVACY ASSESSMENT

(i) Does the project/activity involve any of the following high risk processing	Yes	No	If yes, explain your response
Systematic or extensive profiling, evaluation or scoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
Large scale processing of sensitive data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Systematic monitoring of individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Use of new technology or novel use of existing technology (e.g. AI)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Denial of individuals' access to a service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Profiling of individuals on a large scale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Processing of biometric data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Processing of genetic data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Processing of sensitive data or data of a highly personal nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Combining, comparing or matching data obtained from multiple sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Invisible processing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
Tracking geolocation or behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Targeting of children or other vulnerable individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk of physical harm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**If you answer yes to any of the questions in section 4(i) above, it is likely that a DPIA will be automatically required. Consult to DE Data Protection Officer for further advice.**

(ii) Does the project involve any of the following?	Yes	No	If yes, explain your response
Automated decision-making with a legal or similar significant effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Processing of data on a large scale.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A change to an existing policy, process or system that involves personal data (e.g. new legislation or policy that makes it compulsory to collect or disclose information).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A change in location of a business area or branch (e.g. plans to centralise a service or an office move).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A practice or activity that is listed on a risk register (e.g. activities listed on your business area's risk register or health and safety register).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Collecting new information about an individual (e.g. gathering information about individuals' location).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A new way of gathering personal information (e.g. collecting information online rather than on paper forms).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A change in the way personal information is stored or secured (e.g. cloud storage).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A change to how sensitive personal information is managed (e.g. moving health records to a new database).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
Transferring personal information offshore (e.g. using a cloud based application to store data).		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
A decision to retain personal information for longer than previously kept (e.g. keeping information for 10 years when you previously only held it for 7).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Using information classed as 'special category data' (e.g. information about an individual's health).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Using personal data already held for a new purpose (e.g. to obtain customer profiles).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(ii) Does the project involve any of the following?	Yes	No	If yes, explain your response
Disclosing information to a third party (e.g. following a request from a law enforcement agency to provide information for a particular purpose).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sharing or matching personal information held by different organisations or in different datasets (e.g. combining data with other information held on systems or sharing information to enable organisations to provide services jointly).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
A change in policy that results in people having less access to information that you hold about them (for example, archiving documents after 6 months into a facility from which they cannot be easily retrieved).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Establishing a new way of identifying individuals (for example, a unique identifier, a biometric, or online identity system).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Introducing a new system for searching individuals' property, persons or premises (e.g. adopting a new policy of searching data on mobile phones that have been returned for upgrading).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
Surveillance, tracking or monitoring of movements, behaviour or communications (e.g. installing a new CCTV system or monitoring a member of staff's email account).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Insert text)</i>
Changes to premises impacting on private spaces where clients/staff may discuss personal data (e.g. changing the location of a reception desk where people may disclose personal details or relocating a branch where sensitive personal data is processed).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
New regulatory requirements that could lead to compliance action against individuals on the basis of information about them (e.g.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(ii) Does the project involve any of the following?	Yes	No	If yes, explain your response
<i>adding a new medical condition to the requirements of a licence.</i>			
Other privacy intrusions such as body searches, or intrusion into physical space.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Comments/Notes
N/A

## 5. INITIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

If you answered 'Yes' to any of the questions in section 4, use the table below to give a rating - either Low (L), Medium (M), or High (H) – to each of the aspects of the project set out in the first column. If you answered 'No' to all the questions in section 4, move on to section 6.

Aspect of the Project	Rating (L, M or H)	
Level of personal data handling	L – Minimal personal information will be handled	<input type="checkbox"/>
	M – A moderate amount of personal information (or information that could become personal information) will be handled	<input type="checkbox"/>
	H – A significant amount of personal information (or information that could become personal information) will be handled	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensitivity of information	L – The information is not sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>
	M – The information may be considered to be, or may become, sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>
	H – The information is highly sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Significance of the changes	L – Only minor change to existing functions/activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
	M – Substantial change to existing functions/activities; or a new initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>
	H – Major overhaul of existing functions/activities; or a new initiative that's significantly different	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interaction with third parties	L – No interaction with other agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	M – Interaction with one or two other agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	H – Extensive cross-agency (government) interaction or cross-sectional (non-government and government) interaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public impact	L – Minimal impact on the organisation and individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>

Aspect of the Project	Rating (L, M or H)	
	M – Some impact on individuals is likely due to changes to the handling of personal information; or the changes may raise public concern	<input type="checkbox"/>
	H – High impact on individuals and the wider public; concerns over aspects of project or negative media interest is likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. SUMMARY OF PRIVACY IMPACT	
<b>The privacy impact for this project has been assessed as:</b>	
<b>Low</b> – There is little or no personal information involved; or the use of personal information is uncontroversial; or the risk of harm eventuating is negligible; or the change is minor and something that the individuals concerned would expect; or risks are fully mitigated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Medium*</b> – Some personal information is involved, and several low to medium risks have been identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>High*</b> – Sensitive personal information is involved, and several medium to high risks have been identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reduced risk</b> – The project will lessen existing privacy risks	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Inadequate information</b> – More information and analysis is needed to fully assess the privacy impact of the project.	<input type="checkbox"/>
This Data Protection Impact Assessment relates to respondents to the public consultation, during which DE plans to gather views on the proposed qualifications policy framework only.	

\* If you have assessed the privacy impact as medium or high, a DPIA must be carried out.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

A full data protection impact assessment **is** required

A full data protection impact assessment **is not** required

### Reasons:

This Data Protection Impact Assessment relates to respondents to the public consultation, during which DE plans to gather views on the proposed qualifications framework policy for the revision of CCEA GCSEs, AS levels and A levels.

## 8. SIGN OFF

### Project Manager

Name: Jonathan Cockerill

Date: 15/09/2025

Signed:

### Senior Responsible Owner/Information Asset Owner

Name: Karen McCullough

Date: 16/09/2025

Signed:



**ED1/25/151401**