

13 October 2023

Burkard Poulster & Marty Ross  
[REDACTED]

Dear Burkard and Marty

I start by acknowledging the extensive time this response has taken to come back to you. A significant review of our processes was undertaken, and it is only now that I am able to write to you.

As you are aware, Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) engaged Deloitte earlier this year for the purpose of conducting a review of the VCAA exam development process; to ensure compliance with VCAA policies and guidelines in relation to the development of the 2022 Mathematics Exams, and to identify any improvement opportunities for future exam preparation. The review is now complete and VCAA are working to implement the recommendations provided by Deloitte.

During the review the following activities were conducted by Deloitte:

- Discussions with 15 participants involved in the 2022 Maths Exam development process.
- Review of relevant documents and assessment of the writing and vetting process of the 2022 Maths exams against the relevant VCAA policy and guides
- Comparison of the publicly available information relating to the VCAA exam development process to other state bodies

Deloitte did not identify any material breaches or deviations of VCAA policies and procedures during the development of the 2022 Maths Exams. In addition, Deloitte did not identify any evidence of misconduct by any VCAA employee in the 2022 Maths Exam development process, based on the information reviewed and interviews undertaken.

In addition to the above scope, the VCAA sought the opinion of two independent state Education bodies on a sample of questions across each of the 2022 Maths Exams, including the questions raised in your letter dated 20 December 2022. Each body was asked to complete either all or a sample of questions including an explanation of their answer and provide commentary on the quality of questions, appropriateness to VCE level, whether there is any mathematical ambiguity and general language and grammar.

The independent state bodies found that there were no major mathematical errors within any of the questions, however identified some room for improvement in the language and grammar used and level of marks provided per question.

Separately the VCAA has also completed a further internal review of the exam questions queried, undertaken by several participants of the exam development process. The multiple-

choice questions have also undergone psychometric review which included review of the fit and discrimination of the questions. This review found that these questions performed as expected across the student ability range with no anomalies detected.

Moving forward, VCAA have begun implementing Deloitte's recommendations and are committed to continuously improving the exam development process and experience for all VCE students.

If you would like further information, please contact me on [REDACTED] or by email:  
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**JASON SMALLWOOD**  
Executive Director, Curriculum Division