

## Education and Innovation Committee

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**From:** MATIS, Carolyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 May 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** Education and Innovation Committee  
**Subject:** Protest re criteria marking and assignments in Maths

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Dear Committee Members,

I have been teaching mathematics for many years. I feel gravely concerned about the approach of QSA to assessment. My workload as a senior teacher has increased enormously due to increased emphasis on criteria based marking and assignment marking.

The effect of this is that my preparation and student contact time is limited, and my stress levels are dangerously high. In fact, I am looking for other work. I know that most of my colleagues also hate QSA's approach.

Perhaps more important, is the damaging effect this assessment is having on the students. They have too many long written assignments, are staying up till very late and have no time for regular revision of mathematics.

Assessing mathematics through long written assignments is not valid for many reasons:

- (1) There is the issue of who actually does the assignments,
- (2) Students do not learn as much maths by doing them,
- (3) these assignments use up much time, which could be used in learning fundamental maths.

The criteria paragraphs which QSA call standards, are the most tedious and ineffective thing I have ever seen. They are subjective and unhelpful.

A comparison by way of cross marking shows major discrepancies and differences in grades awarded by different teachers. It would be much more efficient to add up marks and award percentages, as has always been done.

I would also support state-wide externally-set exams, set by teams of experienced and currently practicing teachers and discipline experts, in preference to the current system of social moderation.

The increasing pressure on teachers is outlandish. There is not one night or weekend when I as a senior teacher am not working on schoolwork. This has been detrimental to my health and will force the early retirement of an experienced teacher.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Matis BSc Hons1, Dip Ed, MEc

Senior Mathematics Teacher  
[REDACTED]

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