



Ms Norma Foley T.D.
Minister for Education
Department of Education
Marlborough St
Dublin D01 RC96

16th May, 2022

Re: Timeline for publication of Leaving Certificate results and associated processes

CC: Minister Simon Harris T.D., Minister Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science

Dear Minister Foley,

We are writing to you on behalf of Technological Higher Education Association (THEA) registrars who are growing increasingly concerned at the lack of certainty attaching to the Leaving Certificate and CAO processes this year. While we understand the reasons, the sense is that the fullest ramifications and the possible unintended consequences are not fully appreciated in the system. Institutions have managed through two difficult years as a consequence of the unavoidable pressures attaching to Covid. We had opportunity this year to steady the ship and offer all students, new and returning, a more managed and even commencement.

Instead, we face further uncertainty with consequent difficulty in planning. Delayed results imply delayed entry into Higher Education and the necessity to run dual timetables for returning and new entry students. This presents quality assurance issues in relation to a shorter semester for first years, examination pressures, and the late publication of timetables for all students. Late induction for the 1st year cohort limits the opportunities for peer interaction with existing students who have returned to class and there is limited availability for academic staff to engage due to teaching commitments.

The consequences are not only at an academic management level but for students anticipating the uptake of an offer, early planning in respect of student accommodation remains crucial. Similar consideration attaches to students contemplating a move across international boundaries.

The impact this uncertainty is having on prospective Higher Education students facing into Leaving Certificate Examinations and for institutions attempting to plan for the new academic year is significant.

We ask that a decision is forthcoming so that the planning process for all concerned, intending students and academic institutions, can commence without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Joseph Ryan
Chief Executive Officer
THEA

Dr Sheila Flanagan
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Registrar DKIT
Chair of Council of Registrars