

## Board of Management Learning & Teaching Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 5 September 2018</b>
<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>LTC1-I</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Subject of Paper</b>	<b>Report on Academic Appeals</b>
<b>FOISA Status</b>	<b>Disclosable</b>
<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Douglas Dickson, Performance and Improvement Director</b>
<b>Date of production</b>	<b>24 August 2018</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>For Noting</b>

### 1. Recommendations

For information and noting.

## 2. Purpose of report

This report identifies the academic appeals held related to delivery of qualifications during academic years 2012/13 to 2017/18.

## 3. Context and Discussion

It is an awarding body requirement to have a defined and communicated academic appeals procedure. The College's academic appeal procedure is available to all staff on the intranet. There is a student friendly leaflet on academic appeals available on the College website and in MyCity. In addition the academic appeals process is covered at student induction.

The College receives a very low number of academic appeals –

Session	Number
2012/13	1
2013/14	0
2014/15	2
2015/16	1
2016/17	2
2017/18	2

For session 2017-18 we received 2 academic appeals both of which related to graded units. In both instances the appeal was heard and the results were unchanged.

A feature of the appeals over the last 6 years is that all have involved SQA graded units. In all cases, appeals regarding a graded unit have been disputes regarding the grade awarded.

Grades for graded units are awarded as follows –

A= 70% – 100%

B = 60% – 69%

C = 50% – 59%

In all instances of appeal students have achieved either a B or C.

There are 2 main reasons presented by students when appealing graded units grades –

- Direct entry to university to year 2 or 3 is based on the student achieving an A pass.
- The student feels the grade is not reflective of their abilities.

#### **4. Impact and implications**

The appeals procedure identifies that student should obtain feedback on their grade prior to a formal appeal. It is clear in all cases this has happened and as a result this stage averts more formal appeals.

When student's appeal it is apparent from the evidence given at the appeal hearing that there have been further layers of scrutiny put in place by teaching staff to ensure that grades awarded are reliable. This scrutiny takes place particularly when students are at grade boundaries.

The College's appeal process and outcomes were viewed by SQA in November 2017 as part of their Systems audit.