



02 October 2020

Dear Minister Norma Foley and Minister Simon Harris,

We write jointly as national presidents of ISSU representing second-level students and USI, representing third level students, to request an urgent meeting with you both to discuss recent emergencies arising from the errors in Leaving Certificate Calculated Grades.

You will be acutely aware that the apparent reported failures in the system for grading have caused significant anxiety within the student population. This has caused serious concerns to emerge on availability of classes for students moving on to higher education.

We recognise that the COVID-19 emergency has inevitably caused deviations from the normal course for examinations, but we are concerned that the confidence expressed by you and others in the selected contingency system has been misplaced.

On behalf of our members we bring these concerns to you both to ensure that whichever mitigations are selected by the government to this issue are reasonable, rational, proportionate and commensurate with the need to fairly assess students and protect the welfare of students. The integrity of the Leaving Certificate must be upheld, and the wishes of the students impacted by this failure must be heard and realised.

Our focus is to effectively engage with you to find solutions that will mitigate the impact of this regrettable and traumatic situation for so many students. If not handled correctly, this could result in serious fallout that goes far beyond just grades and offers. We need to find the solutions to this together, as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Given that time is of the essence in these matters, we would appreciate an early meeting with you to discuss the above.

We are both available at short notice in order to facilitate you.

Sincerely,

Lorna Fitzpatrick

USI President

Reuban Murray

ISSU President