

Key Stage Test Results 2008 - update week beginning August 4

Readers will be aware that provisional Key Stage 2 results at the national and local authority level were published on Tuesday 5 August. These results can be found [here](#). The decision to publish was taken by the Department's Head of Profession for Statistics after consulting the National Statistician and the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual). In taking this decision, the Head of Profession for Statistics satisfied himself that the volume and quality of data available were sufficient to publish and that there was broad consistency of results with previous years.

For Key Stage 3 the Head of Profession for Statistics has sought further advice from the National Statistician and Ofqual. After considering that advice, he has decided that the publication of provisional Key Stage 3 results at the national level should go ahead as planned on August 12.

The Statistical First Release (SFR) on 12 August will be based on information available to the Department on 25th July, in order to allow time for the necessary quality assurance processes to take place. At that point, the volume of data for each of the Key Stage 3 subjects was at 84% for English, and 94% for Mathematics and Science. This was, in his view, more than sufficient to produce reliable provisional national results, from a statistical point of view. Advice from Ofqual is that, "from the processes that we have observed to date, there is no evidence of widespread problems with the quality of the marks at Key Stage 3 that would justify withholding publication of the provisional results at national level". As normal at this stage in the annual publication cycle, the national results will be provisional. More information about the provisional status of these statistics and other relevant information can be found in the Coming Soon section below.

The Head of Profession for Statistics has decided to delay publication of provisional KS3 results at the local authority level until there is sufficient volume of data for every local authority in all three subjects to enable publication of a complete set of provisional results on a consistent basis for all local authorities. Because of their smaller size, local authority figures require a higher proportion of results than the national figures require to enable the production of reliable provisional results.

The Head of Profession will be keeping open the option of publishing a further SFR in October giving Key Stage 3 national and local authority information. At this point he will review the volumes of data across local authorities along with any further advice from Ofqual and the National Statistician, to inform his decision.