

Helen Marsden  
Senior Product Manager - Mathematics  
Pearson UK  
190 High Holborn  
London  
WC1V 7BH

6 August 2014

Dear Helen

### **Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context**

On behalf of the Royal Statistical Society, I am writing to you with our comments on this qualification, following our consideration of the specification and supporting materials that you provided to us.

The Royal Statistical Society's response to the DfE Policy Statement on 16 to 18 Core Mathematics Qualifications in England of February 2014 and our response to the Department for Education's consultation on Core Maths Technical Guidance of May 2014 (both available on our website), clearly indicate what features we would like to see the Core Mathematics qualifications to have, namely to:

- contain the full statistics cycle;
- have statistics content that is up-to-date and relevant to target students, in their everyday lives and in higher education or in work;
- ensure students gain experience of working with datasets, especially realistic ones;
- have students work with data using IT.

We also expressed a preference for data handling to be assessed and though that innovative external assessment, e.g. through the use of pre-release datasets, would be beneficial.

Of these features, we are pleased to see that statistics content of your proposed qualification is up-to-date and relevant to target students, in their everyday lives and in higher education or in work. We also note that the qualification encourages the development of statistical knowledge, skills and understanding needed by students planning to progress to further study or to employment.

Yours sincerely

Scott Keir  
Head of Education and Statistical Literacy

