

# Extract from Schools Minister Nick Gibb interview on BBC Radio 4, Today Programme, Monday, 24 August 2020

*Interviewer: Justin Webb*

Today - 24/08/2020 - BBC Sounds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000m0nr> - available until 22 September

Full interview starts around 2 hours 14 minutes into the programme and last for about 11 minutes

Comment on private candidates starts round 2 hours 23 minutes and lasts for 1 minute 30 seconds

## **Extract concerning home education:**

### **Justin Webb:**

Just a final thought about the exams and its private candidates, these candidates who weren't part of school assessment, people being home schooled or retaking or have family bereavements and weren't in schools and a lot of them not then in possession of teachers' grading potential grading of their A-levels. And a lot of them, it's 20,000 people, a lot of them just in a complete mess. What can you say to them about what should happen now?

### **Nick Gibb:**

We looked very carefully at this issue with the independent regulator, and it is difficult to have a calculated grade or a teacher assessed grade if they don't have a connection with the school. And that's why we put on a special series of exams in the in October/November for those young people and for other people that were not happy with the grade they were awarded through...

### **Justin Webb:**

So that's the message they've got to take in in October, November. That, that is the answer?

### **Nick Gibb:**

Yes, it is and... Yes, that wouldn't, there isn't normally an autumn season exams. But what we didn't want is for young people to have to wait a whole year to take the exams next year. And that's why we came up with the with the independent regulator, a method of making sure they had their qualifications. And we tried everything we could to find a way to help those home educated people who don't have a connection with a school to be able to take, to have a calculated grade. But it didn't prove possible. And therefore, that's one of the reasons why we had a special autumn series of being able to take any of the subjects, GCSEs or A-levels.

### **Justin Webb:**

Nick Gibb, thank you very much for talking to us this morning.