

Submitted Subjects: key learnings

The Submitted Subjects project was designed to test the online marking of assessments that would otherwise be provided to NZQA in hard copy for external assessment – these are known as submitted subjects. Currently, submitted subjects can involve up to 64,000 submissions, all of which are physically handled via courier and distribution processes.

The aim of the pilot was to test if online marking would increase marking time or pose any other issues for those involved in the process. It was also intended to establish if the process had the potential to:

- remove the need for physical transport and distribution of assessments
- reduce teacher workload
- enable geographically distributed marker panels.

Fifty-four schools participated in the pilot, which involved two standards and commenced at the beginning of November, 2015.

Key learnings

1. Schools making online digital submissions for submitted subjects' standards for marking online appears to be a viable approach, but we still need to understand scalability.
2. Digital submission has the capacity to significantly improve reliability of marking within submitted subjects.
3. There was no noted increase in time to mark for any standard involved in the pilot, and markers completed their work within the required time frames.
4. Technology teachers reported significant decreases in work required for submission, for example, six minutes compared to six hours.
5. The assessment outcomes from the digital marking process were as fair, as reliable, and as valid as the physical marking process.
6. The online process has the potential to significantly improve the reliability and fairness of the assessment by introducing electronic reliability measures.
7. Markers indicated that the process was preferable to the current process.