

# STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

## PRESS STATEMENT

### EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

**8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2004**

The current timetables for the state examinations takes account of a number of priorities; the most important being the ability of the State Examinations Commission to issue examination results within a tight timeframe. The timetable is finalised following consultation with the Education Partners, including representatives of teacher groups, school management bodies and parents. The State examinations currently operate within the tightest of timeframes and to maximum capacity. Any change to the current scheduling would impact on the ability of the SEC to issue results by the expected date.

The deadline for the issue of the Leaving Certificate results is seven and half weeks from the end of the examinations in June. Releasing the results at this time meets the expectations of examination candidates and also feeds into the college entry process conducted by the Central Applications Office and the college admissions offices. In order to meet the results deadline it is necessary to hold the more popular subjects at the start of the examination schedule. This allows sufficient time to collect and process the examination scripts in these high-volume subjects.

Another issue that is considered is minimising the potential for clashes between subjects in order to allow candidates the best possible curriculum choice. The existing timetable allows the best possible subject choice within the two and a half week examining period. The current schedule also ensures that the majority of students complete their examination at, or before, the end of the second week of the examination period.

As would be expected, the examination schedule must also take account of budgetary considerations. The existing timetable allows for consolidation of examination centres towards the end of the examination period and ensures that examination superintendents are not contracted for longer than necessary.

The SEC values the observations of the TUI on exam related matters and will consider proposals for changes to the timetable that would meet the dual challenge of alleviating the burden, on candidates, of the high-volume examinations at the beginning of the examining period and meeting the expectations of candidates, parents and others that the examination results will be released in sufficient time to facilitate the college entry process.