



Report from the Quality Assessment Committee

Issue

1. The board is kept informed of the work of its Quality Assessment Committee (QAC) by receiving a report on the outcomes of each meeting. The attached report summarises the outcomes of the QAC meeting held on 8 September 2020. This report will be supplemented by an oral report given by the chair of the committee.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to receive the report of the Quality Assessment Committee.
3. The board is invited to note the second annual report (2019-20) of the designated quality body (DQB) at Annex A, which the DQB is required to produce under paragraph 8 of schedule 4 of HERA.

Further information

4. Available from Simon Levine.

Quality Assessment Committee report

September 2020

DQB Annual Report and update on progress

5. The committee received the QAA's second annual report (2019-20) in relation to its work as the DQB. This report is required under paragraph 8 of schedule 4 of HERA. It was noted that there had been some minor changes to the version initially received by the committee, and that the updated version had now been shared.

6. The committee received a paper with an update on the DQB's progress.

7. Exempt from publication.

8. Exempt from publication.

9. Exempt from publication.

10. Exempt from publication.

11. Exempt from publication.

12. Exempt from publication.

13. Exempt from publication.

Triennial review of the DQB

14. The committee received a paper that set out initial plans for producing a report to the Secretary of State as required by paragraph 9 of schedule 4 of HERA on the performance of the QAA as the DQB.

15. The committee confirmed that it agreed with officers' recommendations and timings as set out in this paper. [Exempt from publication].

16. Exempt from publication.

17. It was agreed a further update would come back to the committee once work had progressed further.

Consultation on regulation of quality and standards

18. The committee received a presentation providing an update on work related to the development of proposals for consultation in relation to the way in which the OfS performs its quality and standards functions as set out in sections 13 and 23 of HERA. The committee noted that a two-phase consultation was planned, with phase 1 being launched in October 2020. The committee's advice was sought on the emerging proposals.

19. The committee agreed with the OfS's proposed approach, and agreed that the OfS should use the consultation as an opportunity to articulate to the sector, and to others, why and how it regulates quality, and to distinguish between the approach used during registration from ongoing monitoring and intervention for registered providers.
20. The committee advised the OfS that in its consultation, particularly in relation to proposed changes to the regulation of student outcomes through condition B3, it should seek to explain the relationship between the minimum baseline requirements in the B conditions and the above-baseline assessment conducted through the TEF. Any such explanation would need to recognise that the OfS is still developing its approach to the TEF, not least because the independent review and the government's response to this had not yet been published.

Future committee meetings

21. The next meeting will take place on 7 December 2020.