



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 12 September 2022.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to receive the report of the Quality Assessment Committee.

Further information

3. Available from Simon Levine.

Quality Assessment Committee report, September 2022

Update on the Blended Learning Project

4. The committee received a presentation which set out:
 - a) The way in which the blended learning review has been established and framed.
 - b) Early insights into likely findings.
 - c) Plans for evaluation of the review's impact.
5. The committee was supportive of the review into blended learning.
6. The committee gave firm support to this type of regulatory intervention and noted that it could be used as a fast-paced intervention in some circumstances. In this case the committee agreed that the approach was appropriate, given the context of the rapid shift to online delivery and the demands this had placed on students and higher education providers. The committee welcomed the OfS's planned evaluation of the impact of this type of regulatory activity.

Update on the implementation of revised quality conditions

7. The committee received a paper which provided an update on the implementation of the revised B conditions and progress with the delivery of assessment visits to providers in the business and management subject area to investigate potential concerns.
8. The committee noted that progress has been made in all aspects of the preparations needed for visits, including a substantial campaign of recruitment of academic staff to act as assessors or lead assessors. The OfS expects to be in a position to require initial evidence from providers and to set possible dates for visits during September 2022.
9. Exempt from publication.

Regulating student outcomes

10. The committee received a paper which provided an update on the progress in developing the OfS's approach to regulating student outcomes.
11. Members noted that the OfS completed and published its analysis of consultation responses in July 2022 and that it is now moving towards implementation of its revised approach to regulating student outcomes.
12. The committee noted that the OfS has published its revised approach to assessing any potential non-compliance with ongoing condition B3 in the revised condition of registration. Regulatory Advice 20 was published alongside the revised condition which includes a step-by-step guide about how the OfS will undertake assessments.

TEF consultation outcomes

13. The committee received a paper providing an update on the decisions taken about the TEF since its last meeting and the next steps for implementation.

14. The committee noted that consultation responses were broadly positive and in agreement with most of the proposals. Members noted the proposed implementation timetable and the time allowed for submissions from providers which was considered to be tight. This has now been extended to address these concerns.
15. The committee noted the revised implementation timetable.

Transition from the designated quality body (DQB)

16. The committee received a paper which provided an update on the implications of the announcement by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) that it no longer consents to be the DQB from 31 March 2023. It set out the OfS's plans for managing the transition from the current DQB including work underway to ensure the OfS has capacity to carry out assessments from 1 April 2023, at least for an interim period.
17. The committee noted the plan for managing the remaining work to be carried out by the QAA.
18. The committee noted the approach to developing the OfS's capacity to deliver assessments.

Quality and Standards in UK higher education: regulation and oversight

19. The committee received a paper which provided an update about ongoing work with funder/regulator bodies in the devolved nations of the UK to produce a joint statement setting out the UK-wide approach to regulation of higher education, with a focus on quality and standards.
20. The committee noted the updates in the paper and supported the near final version in Annex A.

Future committee meetings

21. The next meeting will take place on 12 December 2022.