

Student panel update

Board's primary role in relation to this paper:

- A. Set strategy
- B. Set risk appetite
- C. Oversee performance
- D. Understand context

Purpose

1. To update the board on the work of the student panel.

Recommendation

2. The board is invited to note the updates in this paper.

Update

3. There are currently nine members on the student panel (including the chair). Over the summer the members were invited to be reappointed to the panel for a second year. All the members accepted this invitation.
4. The student engagement team delivered refresher training to the panel on 16 October 2023. Based on feedback which had been gathered from members of the panel over the summer, the aim of the training was to clarify the role and remit of the panel and to provide insight into how decisions are made at the OfS.
 - a. Director of Regulation, Philippa Pickford, discussed the OfS's priorities and remit. Philippa also shared insights into consumer engagement based on her experience with Ofgem.
 - b. Zoe Forbes from the Department of Education shared her thoughts on political impartiality and influence.
5. The first student panel meeting of the academic year took place on 2 November 2023. The panel discussed:
 - a. Reflections on the House of Lords committee inquiry report with John Blake, Director for Fair Access and Participation
 - b. Plans to refresh the OfS's approach to student engagement

- c. Horizon scanning for the OfS strategy.
6. The minutes of the November meeting will be shared with the board with the papers for the February 2024 board meeting.
7. Dates of future meetings are listed below:
- a. Thursday 18 January 2024
 - b. Thursday 21 March 2024
 - c. Thursday 20 June 2024.