

3 May 2018

To: Heads of higher education institutions in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

For further information contact:

FSSG Secretariat: FSSG@officeforstudents.org.uk 0117 931 7294

Dear Vice-Chancellor or Principal

FSSG Conference – Friday 29 June 2018

Competing and thriving in the new HE environment: challenges to the HE business model

One year on from FSSG's last conference, I am writing to let you know about our event on Friday 29 June 2018 to launch the findings and recommendations from three projects:

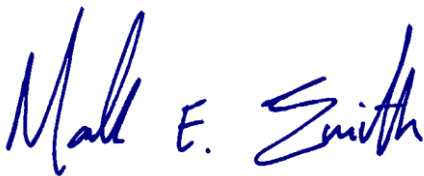
- Understanding income cross flows: changes and challenges to the HE business model
- How institutions fund and sustain medium scale research facilities
- Different by design - exploring alternative delivery of undergraduate provision; benefits and opportunities (project led by the TRAC Development Group)

This event is intended for the senior leadership within higher education institutions, primarily those not in finance roles. We are hoping to attract colleagues from a range of backgrounds and perspectives – e.g. Deputy Vice-Chancellors/ Pro-Vice-Chancellors responsible for academic and research portfolios, and Registrars (or equivalent roles). Delegates will find out about our work and be involved in discussing current and future issues affecting financial sustainability in different types of institutions across the sector.

We hope that all HEIs will wish to send a representative, and that you will agree within your senior management team who should attend from your institution. To ensure that all HEIs have an opportunity to attend we will limit places to one per institution for a period of time, but if you would like to nominate an additional representative to attend, we will consider these requests if we have places available. The event is free to attend and we would hope you are able to send a very senior representative from your team. The feedback we had from last year's event was very positive and helped shape these projects.

Further information about the event, and how to request a place for your institution is attached.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mark E. Smith

Competing and thriving in the new HE environment: challenges to the HE business model

Friday 29 June 2018, 10.00am – 4.30pm
The Kia Oval

A conference to present and discuss the findings and recommendations of the research projects undertaken by the Financial Sustainability Strategy Group (FSSG).

This event is primarily for Deputy and Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, and Chief Operating Officers (or those in similar roles).

Speakers include:

- **Professor Mark E. Smith**, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University – Chair of FSSG
- **Rebecca Endean**– Director of Strategy, UK Research and Innovation
- **Bob Rabone** – Former Chief Financial Officer, University of Sheffield – Member of the Oversight Group for the FSSG project *Understanding income cross flows: changes and challenges to the HE business model*
- **Professor Lisa Roberts**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation at the University of Leeds – Chair of the Oversight Group for the FSSG project *How institutions fund and sustain medium scale research facilities*
- **Sarah Randall-Paley**, Director of Finance, Lancaster University – Chair of the Oversight Group for the TRAC Development Group project *Different by design - exploring alternative delivery of undergraduate provision; benefits and opportunities.*

Sessions include:

- Keynote from UK Research and Innovation on the challenges around research sustainability.
- Presentations and discussions on the findings and recommendations of research projects:
 - Understanding income cross flows: changes and challenges to the HE business model
 - How institutions fund and sustain medium scale research facilities
 - Different by design - exploring alternative delivery of undergraduate provision; benefits and opportunities (with the TRAC Development Group).
- Panel discussion with UK funding bodies

There is no charge for attendance. Refreshments will be available from 9.30am and a light lunch will be provided.

We are limiting allocation of places to one representative per higher education institution until late May 2018, in order that all institutions have an opportunity to be represented. Places remaining will be allocated to additional delegates after this time, so please discuss within your institution prior to requesting a place.

To request places for your institution's representatives, please complete the FSSG delegate form by Wednesday 13 June 2018: http://survey.hefce.ac.uk/s/FSSG_Conf_2018/