

Report from the Quality Assessment Committee

Board's primary role in relation to this paper:

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

Purpose

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. This report summarises the outcomes of the QAC meeting held on 11 December 2023.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to:
 - a. Receive the report of the committee.

Reporting on the delivery of quality assessments

3. The Head of Quality and Standards laid out a framework for reporting on quality assessments to the committee in the future. The committee discussed the value of the QAC's advice on matters relating to academic judgement (e.g., in using academic expertise in assessments and outcomes of assessment) rather than on operational measures.
4. In the context of reviewing future reporting arrangements, members and OfS staff discussed the broader delivery of quality assessments. The committee noted the positive sector reception of quality assessment reports and discussed how to learn from these reports to improve the delivery of future assessments.

Update on degree awarding powers

5. The Head of Degree Awarding Powers and University Title presented three papers updating the committee on a timetable for degree awarding powers (DAPs) cases coming before the committee in 2024, a draft conflicts of interest approach for the committee relating to its role providing advice on DAPs assessments, and a draft template for the committee to inform and collect its advice on individual DAPs cases.

6. The committee noted the schedule for the 2024 timetable and the draft template for informing and collecting the committee's advice on DAPs cases. The committee focused discussion on the practicalities of implementing the conflicts of interest approach.

Update on quality activity

7. The Head of Quality and Standards presented a paper updating on the progress of activity relating to the Teaching Excellence Framework, quality investigations into compliance with ongoing conditions of registration B1, B2 and B4, condition B3 assessments and investigations relating to the credibility of awards.
8. The Head of Student Outcomes updated the committee on the outcomes of TEF 2023. He noted that the OfS had published summary statements explaining the TEF panel's reasoning for its rating decisions along with those decisions for 175 providers. He broke down the final ratings for the group of 52 providers which had made representations to the TEF panel about their ratings and reported that publication of most of those ratings was expected on 18 December 2023. The committee noted the breakdown of final ratings and discussed the likely timing of publication of 'requires improvement' outcomes.

Paper publication

9. To be published with the board papers.