

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. The student panel met on 21 March 2024. The panel discussed:
 - a. Conceptualising 'the student interest'.
 - i. The OfS student engagement and information team gave the panel an update on work to define the student interest and the wider reset of our work on student insight, input and information.
 - ii. The panel then participated in a workshop to explore the proto definition of the student interest. Key points raised included:
 - iii. Exempt from publication.
 - iv. The panel discussed the various issues and points from the perspective of prospective students, current students and graduates as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students.
 - v. Equality of access to good information, advice and guidance was seen as critical for student consumer rights and redress.
 - vi. Exempt from publication.
 - vii. Exempt from publication.

viii. The team will use this information to inform the next stage of student and stakeholder engagement to develop a definition of the student interest, exempt from publication.

b. Developing a student-friendly communications plan for OfS.

i. The OfS communications team outlined the change in strategic approach to communications and the key stories:

ii. Exempt from publication.

iii. We are driven by the interests of students. Our job is to work within our powers to ensure students get access to a high-quality educational experience and get the best possible outcomes in return for their investment.

iv. What we do is important and complex. We are proud of the work that we do and we work in partnership with students, sector, and policymakers to get the balance right.

v. We are listening, learning and improving how we work.

vi. Exempt from publication.

vii. Exempt from publication.

viii. Exempt from publication.

4. A summary of the impact of the student panel over the last academic year has been included at Annex A.

5. Exempt from publication.

6. Additional opportunities which the panel have been involved in include:

a. Six panel members met with Sir David Behan on 5 April and were able to input into his Public Bodies Review of the OfS.

b. Four panel members were involved in the OfS Regulation directorate away day on 1 May.

7. On 26 March the members of the student panel were invited to extend their appointment with OfS by six months.

a. Six panel members confirmed that they wish to continue in post.

8. The last meeting of the academic year will take place on Thursday 20 June 2024.

Paper publication

9. To be published along with board papers with appropriate exemptions. Annex A is exempt from publication because a summary of the impact of the student panel is included in the OfS Annual Report.