

11KBW

Higher Education Conference

Harini Iyengar

30 November 2016

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Looking to the future: the Higher Education and Research Bill

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Progress of the Bill

- Fulfilling our Potential: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice – green paper November 2015
- Success as a Knowledge Economy: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice – white paper May 2016
- Technical Consultation for Year Two – May 2016
- Second reading in House of Lords - 6 December 2016

Government Mission

Boost:

- Social mobility
- Life chances
- Opportunity for all
- Enhance competitiveness and productivity of the economy

Major legislative reform

Biggest major legislative reform since 1992

- Based on Conservative Manifesto 2015
- Increase innovation and flexibility of courses
- Value for money for students
- Improve access to Higher Education
- Tackle skill shortages and graduate unemployment

Transparency Revolution

Student Choice and Teaching Excellence

- Teaching Excellence Framework “TEF”
- More new HE providers
 - easier to start up
 - easier to get degree awarding powers
 - easier to get University status
- Office for Students

Transparency Revolution

- Financial incentives to improve teaching quality
- Links between quality of teaching and funding
- Duty to publish rates of
 - application
 - offer
 - acceptance
 - progressionby gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background

Shining a spotlight

“Shining a spotlight on those that need to go further on social mobility”

- Transparency of data
- Comparison between rival institutions
- Student choice
- Funding consequences
- Dramatic change in HE marketplace

Smarter Regulation

Office for Students

- Many HEFCE functions
- Many Office for Fair Access functions
- Champion of transparency and student choice
- Double proportion of disadvantaged students by 2020
- 20% increase in BME students by 2020

Smarter Regulation

Office for Students

- Must have regard to:
 - Duty to promote quality and greater choice and opportunities for students in the provision of higher education by English higher education providers
 - Need to encourage competition between English higher education providers in connection with the provision of higher education where competition is in the interests of students and employers

Smarter Regulation

Office for Students

- Must have regard to:
 - Need to promote value for money in the provision of higher education by English higher education providers
 - Need to promote equality of opportunity in connection with access to and participation in higher education provided by English higher education providers

Smarter Regulation

Office for Students

- Must have regard to:
 - Need to use the OfS's resources in an efficient, effective and economic way, and
 - So far as relevant the principles of best regulatory practice including transparency, accountability, proportionality and consistency and only targeting cases where action is needed

Smarter Regulation

Office for Students

- Judicial review!
- Guidance from Secretary of State
 - Needs to protect academic freedom
 - Must not be course specific

World-leading research and innovation

UK Research and Innovation

- Combining the seven research councils, Innovate UK and HEFCE research and knowledge exchange functions
- Nine councils within UKRI
- Remove barriers to multi- and inter-disciplinary research
- Competitive grants alongside block grants

Financial Implications

Huge financial implications for every institution

- TEF standards
- Ability of some providers to increase fees in line with inflation from 2017/2018
- Differentiation of fees in the sector
- Market economy principles applied to HE

Practical Implications

Most providers acutely aware?

- Competing for best students
- Student numbers critical for financial stability
- Dip in demographic profile
- Loss of EU students?
- Loss of international students?

Practical Implications

Most providers acutely aware?

- Collecting data for National Student Survey
- Stubborn gaps between different groups?
- Influence of wider factors in society?
- Difficult times ahead for some institutions?