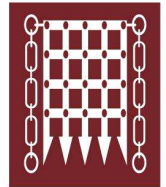


# Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Disabled students - funding, inclusivity and access

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change



WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Funding and inclusive provision for disabled students: key findings from HEFCE's review**  
**Grace Simpson**, Higher Education Policy Advisor, HEFCE  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.55 **Disabled students' support in higher education following *Inclusive Teaching and Learning in Higher Education as a route to Excellence***  
Senior speaker to be confirmed  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.45 **Implementing a social model of support: Disabled Students' Allowance reform, ensuring consistency between institutions and key issues for university staff**  
*In light of changes to the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) and increased dependence on individual higher education providers (HEPs) to take responsibility for their own disabled students' support, how can consistency in funding disabled students' provision across institutions be ensured? What have been the wider implications of reforms to the DSA, for instance in the funding of non-medical help such as mentoring, physical assistance and specialist IT equipment? With HEPs expected to take primary responsibility for most non-medical help in lower cost bands, how can conflicts of interest be avoided in assessing the individual needs of students? Beyond funding, what are the key barriers to implementing inclusive models of support such as the social model, and how can they be overcome? How can the pace set by some universities in transitioning to more inclusive models of support be matched by universities with high numbers of disabled students? What further options should be considered in the creation of more inclusive learning environments - beyond those suggested in Government guidance including the regular updating of reading lists, facilitating the recording of teaching and the pre-selection of diverse learning groups?*  
**Dr Nasser Siabi**, Chief Executive, Microlink  
**Philip Connolly**, Policy and Development Manager, Disability Rights UK  
**Sarah Slater**, Disability and Wellbeing Service Manager and Deputy Head of Student Wellbeing, LSE  
**Dr Claire Gordon**, Head, Teaching and Learning Centre, LSE  
**Rachel O'Brien**, Disabled Students Officer, NUS  
Senior representative, legal  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Dr Lisa Cameron MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability
- 11.25 - 11.35 **The key social and practical barriers to inclusivity - a firsthand experience**  
**Molly Watt**, Accessibility & Usability Consultant, Molly Watt
- 11.35 - 12.00 **Key issues for responding to disabled students' complaints**  
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Office of the Independent Adjudicator**  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Molly Watt**, Accessibility & Usability Consultant, Molly Watt
- 12.00 - 12.30 **Improving accessibility and ensuring effective campus design**  
**Mei-Yee Man Oram**, Accessible Environments co-lead, Arup  
**Caryn Thorogood**, Head of Student Services, University of Worcester  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Disabled students - priorities for policy**  
**Greg Boone**, Team Leader, Disabled Students' Allowance, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Dr Lisa Cameron MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum