

**Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar**  
**Competition and diversity in UK Higher Education – online learning models, alternative providers and the changing shape of the sector**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Venue: Johnnie Walker Room, The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Paul Uppal MP**, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Universities
- 9.05 - 9.30 **A UK approach to MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses)**  
**Professor Martin Bean**, Vice-Chancellor, The Open University  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.15 **The future of free, open, online higher education in the UK**  
*Perspectives on the potential impact of MOOCs and developments in distance learning on the HE sector in the UK and worldwide. Could short free online courses be used as a marketing tool for student recruitment to full degree programmes? What is the potential for MOOCs to widen participation in HE? Should university accreditation of short online courses and the quality of these courses be regulated? Are online courses a threat to traditional on-campus degree programmes? Is there a sustainable business model for MOOCs - both for content providers and the platform developers? Should Government play a role in supporting UK universities in developing MOOCs to compete with the online output of universities overseas?*  
**Mike Boxall**, Higher and Further Education Consultant, PA Consulting  
**Professor Jeff Haywood**, Vice Principal Knowledge Management, CIO & Librarian, University of Edinburgh  
**Saad Rizvi**, Executive Director of Efficacy, Pearson and Author, *An avalanche is coming: Higher education and the revolution ahead*  
**Professor Maurits Van Rooijen**, Chief Executive Officer & Rector, London School of Business & Finance  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.35 **The changing shape and structure of the UK HE sector**  
**Andy Westwood**, Chief Executive, GuildHE  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 11.30 **Diversifying the market: HE in FE and alternative providers of HE**  
*What steps can the Government take to deliver on its aim of increasing the number of alternative providers in the HE sector and to reduce barriers to market entry? Are the proposed changes to the regulation of alternative providers sufficient to achieve the aim of a 'level playing field' with traditional universities; is there a need for the regulatory system to be underpinned by legislation? Should designated courses at alternative providers be subject to Key Information Sets and the National Student Survey? Are the proposed student number controls likely to have an impact on the growth of new entrants to the HE market? Should alternative providers with small numbers of students accessing student support be exempt from student number controls, and if so, how should Government define 'small'? Should FE colleges, or groups of colleges, be able to hold degree awarding powers? Can FE in HE be used to further spread HE provision into areas of the country without universities? What challenges does the Government's aim - to increase the number of alternative HE providers - pose for traditional universities?*  
**Matthew Batstone**, Co-Founder and Non-Executive Director, New College of the Humanities  
**Libby Hackett**, Chief Executive, University Alliance  
**Nick Davy**, HE Policy Manager, Association of Colleges  
**Roxanne Stockwell**, Managing Director of Higher Education Awards and Principal, Pearson College  
**Michael MacNeil**, National Head of Higher Education, University and College Union  
**Dr Edward de Bono**, Author, *Lateral Thinking* and *Six Thinking Hats*  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Paul Uppal MP**, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Universities
- 11.35 - 11.55 Coffee
- 11.55 - 12.00 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon the Lord David Triesman**
- 12.00 - 12.25 **Creating a level playing field for alternative providers**  
**Dr Stephen Jackson**, Director of Reviews, QAA  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Encouraging diversity in UK HE**  
**Gordon McKenzie**, Deputy Director, Higher Education Structure and Shape, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon the Lord David Triesman**  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum