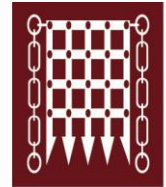


**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference  
Priorities for the higher education admissions system**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\***



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Young of Norwood Green**, former Parliamentary Under Secretary, Skills and Apprenticeships, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (2008 - 2009)
- 9.05 **Government priorities for admissions reform and outcomes from the consultation**  
**Dr John Blakeley**, Policy Advisor, Widening participation and Student Experience, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Challenges of implementing post-qualification admissions models – PQA and PQO, timeline pressures on admissions teams, exams and grading, pre-entry testing, suitability for smaller providers, and impact on teacher workload**  
**Dr Beth Linklater**, Assistant Principal, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke and FE Representative, UCAS Council  
**Professor Graham Virgo**, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), University of Cambridge  
**Dr Samina Khan**, Director, Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach, University of Oxford  
Senior representative, union  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 Break
- 10.25 **Ensuring support for students in admissions reform**  
Senior representative, policy
- 10.35 **Supporting and empowering students in admissions reform- providing clarity for students and carers, transparency in contextual admissions, supporting mental health, building relationships with students, priorities for careers guidance, and supporting those with additional needs**  
**Lucy Ball**, Head of Programme and Volunteering, The Access Project  
Senior representative, university  
Senior representative, school careers  
Senior representative, student union
- 10.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Young of Norwood Green**, former Parliamentary Under Secretary, Skills and Apprenticeships, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (2008 - 2009)
- 11.25 Break
- 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.40 **Reimagining UK Admissions, options for reform and meeting challenges for implementation**  
**John Cope**, Director, Strategy, Policy & Public Affairs, UCAS  
Questions and comments from the floor
- Ensuring reform meet the needs of specific students groups**
- 12.10 **Aligning UK-wide admissions - the specific circumstances of devolved administrations, differing exams systems and qualifications, and the priorities for maintaining borderless choice**  
**Rebecca Gaukroger**, Director, Student Recruitment and Admissions, The University of Edinburgh
- 12.20 **Priorities for Mature Applicants - possible impact of PQA models, providing support and guidance, and transitioning from work to education**  
Senior representative, mature students
- 12.30 **Challenges and opportunities for international students - options for an integrated admissions system, impact on UK competitiveness, timetabling issues, pending qualifications, scholarships, and pre-entry testing**  
**Jazreel Goh**, Director Malaysia, British Council
- 12.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum