

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
Next steps for supporting disabled students in Higher Education

Timing: Morning, Friday 29th April 2022

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The impact of the pandemic on disabled students in HE - the transition to blended learning, implications for student mental health, and best practice moving forward**
Helen Saelensminde, Chief Executive Officer, Snowdon Trust
- 9.15 **Learning from disabled students' experiences of higher education**
Nicola Turner, Policy Adviser, UCAS
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 Break
- 9.50 **Policy priorities for the Disabled Students Allowance**
Katherine Bayliss, Student Funding Policy, Higher Education and Further Education Directorate, Department for Education
- 10.00 **Streamlining the transition process to university and improving student life on campus - funding, accommodation and campus design, equipping staff with the relevant skills, and improving awareness of available support**
Sean Cullen, Doctoral Researcher, College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences, Brunel University London
Mette Westander, Founding Director, Disabled Students UK
Danie Woodbridge, Inclusion, Diversity and Disability Manager, Buckinghamshire New University
Caroline Huntley, Chair, National Association of Disability Practitioners
Senior representative, university services
- 10.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 Break
- 11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Colin Low of Dalston, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology
- 11.10 **Use of online learning and assistive technologies - accessibility, best practice and impact on student outcomes**
Dr Liz Marr, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Students), The Open University
Senior representative, assistive technologies
- 11.20 **Priorities for educational attainment - adjustments, and supporting students during the examination process and into future pathways to postgraduate study and employment**
Geena Vabulas, Policy Manager, Assistive Technology, Policy Connect
Anna Ward, Disabled Students' Officer, University of Cambridge
Tab Ahmad, Founder and CEO, EmployAbility
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, learning support
- 11.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **The experiences of disabled students in Higher Education and priorities moving forward**
Geoff Layer, Chair, Disabled Students' Commission; and Vice Chancellor, University of Wolverhampton
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Colin Low of Dalston, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Assistive Technology
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum