

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference

Freedom of speech policy and higher education

Timing: Morning, Monday, 17th January 2022

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Matt Western MP, Shadow Minister, Further Education and Universities
- 9.05 **Free speech in universities - definition, context, and history**
Joe Lewis, Researcher, House of Commons Library
- 9.15 **Exchange of ideas on UK campuses - assessing the nature of 'threat', and the scope and extent of key current issues**
Peter Tatchell, Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation
Professor Bobby Duffy, Director, Policy Institute, King's College London
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.40 Break
- 9.45 **Implementation of free speech regulation - statutory duties, options for minimising bureaucracy, defining and sharing best practice, and considering proportionality, liability and risk in reforms**
James Murray, Senior Associate, Taylor Vinters
Professor Alison Scott-Baumann, Professor of Society and Belief, SOAS University of London
Jack Ballingham, Opportunities Officer, Durham Students' Union
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, college
Questions and comments from the floor
- Implications for key stakeholders and vulnerable groups**
- 10.25 **Balancing sector oversight and institutional autonomy - options for self-regulation**
Professor Paul Layzell, Principal, Royal Holloway, University of London; and Chair, London Higher
- 10.35 **Academic freedom and research integrity - priorities for freedom of inquiry, standards of peer review, and quality of research**
Professor Kathleen Stock, Professor of Philosophy, School of Media, Arts and Humanities, University of Sussex
- 10.45 **Ensuring protection for vulnerable student groups - combatting 'hate speech' and marginalisation**
Nina Freedman, President, Union of Jewish Students
- 10.55 **Speech, academic rigour and the university experience, and priorities for employers**
Senior representative, employer
- 11.05 Questions and Comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Matt Western MP, Shadow Minister, Further Education and Universities
- 11.30 Break
- 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.45 **Learning from international experience, frameworks and practice**
Professor Arkadiusz Mężyk, President, Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (KRASP); and Rector, Silesian University of Technology
Senior representative, international
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 Break
- 12.30 **Government priorities for freedom of speech in higher education**
Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Higher and Further Education, Department for Education
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