

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for the financial sustainability of higher education**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023*

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



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

*Draft agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Donaghy**
- 9.05 **The current financial position of UK universities and options for increasing financial support**  
**Professor Jenny Higham**, Policy Lead for Funding, Universities UK; and Vice Chancellor, St George's, University of London
- 9.15 **Case studies: how universities are adapting to the current funding climate, supporting students and planning for the future**  
**Professor George Boyne**, Principal and Vice Chancellor, University of Aberdeen  
**Professor Karen Holford**, Chief Executive & Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **University finances - assessing key issues for the sector, current risks, and priorities for regulation**  
**Roberta Malee Bassett**, Global Lead for Tertiary Education and Senior Education Specialist, the World Bank  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 Break
- 10.30 **Securing long-term financial stability for the UK HE sector - spending and university performance, meeting the academic needs of students, reliance on international students, and identifying potential future revenue sources**  
**Andrew Bush**, Director, Consulting Enterprise Risk, KPMG UK  
**Karen Kröger**, Chief Financial Officer, Queen Mary University of London  
Senior representative, International student  
Senior representative, finance  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Donaghy**
- 11.25 Break
- 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Taylor**, Member, House of Lords Industry and Regulators Committee
- 11.40 **Future funding models and investment in research - public and private partnerships and investment, options for reform, and encouraging international finance**  
**Dr Steve Taylor**, Deputy Director, Research Strategy and Services Division, University of Birmingham  
**Dr Alexis Brown**, Head of Global Education Insights, British Council  
**Professor Simon Green**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Aston University  
Senior representative, devolved university  
Senior academic  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 Break
- 12.35 **'Higher education finance in the future: balancing private and public interests'**  
**Professor Christopher Millward**, School of Education, Professor of Practice in Education Policy, University of Birmingham  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
**Baroness Taylor**, Member, House of Lords Industry and Regulators Committee  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum