

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for quality and standards in UK higher education**

*Timing: Morning, Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025*

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

*Draft agenda subject to change*



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Quality and standards in HE - the current state of play**  
**Dr Charlotte Snelling**, Head of Regulation Policy, Universities UK  
**Professor Nic Bech**, Chair, Quality Council for UK Higher Education
- 9.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 **The new UK Quality Code and its implementation**  
*assessing key developments in HE quality and standards | implementation issues | role of the new Quality Council | alignment with European standards | challenges and priorities going forward | student and teaching staff communication and engagement | strategies and best practice for quality enhancement | enabling curriculum design and regulation to keep pace with innovation and changing needs | addressing key challenges, including the increased use of AI*  
**Daisy Watson**, President, Sheffield Students' Union  
**Debra Macfarlane**, Director, Regulatory Services, Quality Assurance Agency  
**Emma Connolly**, Organisational Quality Assurance Manager, Belfast Metropolitan College  
**Andy McGill**, Higher Technical Education Manager, Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity  
Senior representative, HE
- Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Developing high quality courses that are challenging and current**  
*aligning courses and standards with developing skills requirements and employer needs | understanding student needs and how they can be met | providing value for money and developing courses in the face of financial constraint | supporting diverse HE routes and new providers | considerations for the future of HE quality regulation | best practice for supporting graduate employability prospects | incorporating remote and blended learning | addressing challenges for quality delivery under financial constraints*  
**Marija Solic**, Academic Representation Officer, University of Portsmouth Students' Union  
**Miley Lewis**, Senior Standards and Quality Officer, Nottingham Trent University  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Impact of UK HE franchise provision and transnational education on quality and standards**  
*maintaining the UK's global standing and reputation in international markets | quality assurance in franchise provision | alignment of transnational education with European standards | addressing concerns over potential abuse of the student loans system | ensuring quality and standards in transnational education*  
**Professor Paul Marshall**, Vice-President, Global Campus; and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Careers and Enterprise, University of East London  
**Fenella Johnson**, Academic Officer, University of York Students' Union  
**Professor Nick Braisby**, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire New University  
**Karen Blackney**, Associate Director, University of East Anglia Global  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Priorities for improving HE quality and standards moving forward**  
**Debra Macfarlane**, Director, Regulatory Services, Quality Assurance Agency  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Higher Education Forum