

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

Timing: Morning, Friday, 21st November 2025

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 **Insights from Teaching Excellence Framework 2023 - contextualisation, proportionality, and supporting sustained improvement**
Senior commentator
- 9.20 **Embedding assessment in a rolling regulatory cycle - assurance, accountability, and institutional coordination**
expectations for the proposed shift from a fixed to a rolling, embedded assessment model | aligning the framework with baseline conditions and institutional missions | strategic approaches to continuous quality enhancement | adapting governance, data systems, and internal processes to support ongoing engagement | integrating expectations across varied academic contexts | evidencing student voice, educational gain, and impact | supporting transparency and fairness in assessments | balancing consistency in judgement with contextualisation for diverse providers | managing regulatory burden, compliance, and reputational risk | graduate outcomes and public accountability | insights from the 2023 exercise | alignment with the Office for Students Strategy 2025-2030, including early intervention approaches, and potential expansion to postgraduate and transnational provision
Dr Arti Saraswat, Senior Policy Manager, Higher Education, Association of Colleges
Dr Richard Davies, Programme Leader, MA Education Framework, School of Education, University of Hertfordshire
Dr Steve Briggs, Director of Learning, Teaching and Libraries, University of Bedfordshire
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Assessing value and accountability across provider types - performance metrics, reputational risks, and fairness and comparability**
Senior representative, sector body
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **'Quality improvement models outside England - embedding enhancement and student partnership'**
Professor Clare Peddie, Vice Principal, Education, University of St Andrews; and Deputy Chair, Quality Council for UK Higher Education
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 **Student outcomes and institutional strategy - improving progression, attainment, and educational equity**
practical strategies for improving continuation, progression, and attainment | addressing disparities in outcomes | linking curriculum design and staff development to student success | embedding equity into quality enhancement processes | aligning access, participation, and attainment strategies across the student lifecycle | using outcome data to inform targeted support and institutional planning | reflecting educational gain and graduate success in institutional strategies | responding to regulatory expectations on continuation and progression thresholds | demonstrating value for money and student return on investment
Julian True, Access and Participation Manager, University of Plymouth
Senior speaker confirmed from **Independent Higher Education**
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, students' union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **'How quality assurance can enable continuous improvement'**
Steph Tindall, Head, UK and International Membership Delivery, The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- 11.55 **Developing institutional narratives - evidencing excellence, improvement, and impact**
building a clear and credible narrative in evolving quality assurance frameworks | insights from high-performing submissions | documenting improvement journeys and evidencing impact | presenting longitudinal improvement and responsiveness to past regulatory feedback | supporting diverse institutional models, including those with widening participation profiles or distinctive missions | capturing diverse forms of excellence and aligning narrative to mission and context | integrating student voice into narrative construction | ensuring frameworks accommodate innovation and non-traditional provision | navigating reputational risk while presenting innovation and ambition | preparing for external scrutiny | adapting appeals processes under evolving regulatory expectations
Professor Julian Chaudhuri, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Education, University of Bath
James Dunphy, Director, Educational Excellence, Advance HE
Senior speaker confirmed from **Norland College**
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Priorities for developing the Teaching Excellence Framework and the next phase of regulation**
Graeme Rosenberg, Head, Student Outcomes, Office for Students
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