



WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM

# Reforming higher technical education in England - Level 4 and 5 qualifications, funding, regulation and the introduction of Institutes of Technology 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

## **CONDITIONS FOR USE OF TRANSCRIPTS:**

This document is intended to provide a timely reference for interested parties who are unable to attend the event to which it refers. Some portions are based on transcripts of proceedings and others consist of text submitted by speakers or authors, and are clearly marked as such. As such, apart from where it is indicated that the text was supplied by the speaker, it has not been possible for the transcript to be checked by speakers and so this portion of the document does not represent a formal record of proceedings. Despite best endeavours by Westminster Forum Projects and its suppliers to ensure accuracy, text based on transcription may contain errors which could alter the intended meaning of any portion of the reported content. Anyone who intends to publicly use or refer to any text based on the transcript should make clear that speakers have not had the opportunity for any corrections, or check first with the speaker in question. If in doubt please contact the forum first.

# Contents

<b><u>About this Publication</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Agenda</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u></b>	
<b>Adrian Bailey MP</b>	<b>6</b>
<b><u>Reforming higher technical education in England</u></b>	
<b>Craig Myers</b> , Head, Higher Technical Education, Department for Education ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>7</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>10</b>
<b><u>Developing and positioning the higher technical offering</u></b>	
<b>Dr Arti Saraswat</b> , Senior Policy Manager, Higher Education, Association of Colleges ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>15</b>
<b><u>What should higher technical qualifications look like? Design, uptake, collaboration with employers, streamlining provision and improving visibility</u></b>	
<b>Anna Round</b> , Senior Research Fellow, North East, IPPR ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>18</b>
<b>Paul Steer</b> , Head of Policy, OCR ( <i>text submitted by speaker</i> )	<b>20</b>
<b>Chris Young</b> , Education & Skills Delivery Manager, EDF Energy ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>22</b>
<b>Simon Field</b> , Director, Skills Policy ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>26</b>
Questions and comments from the floor with <b>Dr Arti Saraswat</b> , Senior Policy Manager, Higher Education, Association of Colleges ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>26</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's closing remarks</u></b>	
<b>Adrian Bailey MP</b> ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>34</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's opening remarks</u></b>	
<b>Rt Hon the Baroness Garden of Frognal</b> , Deputy Speaker (Lords) ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>35</b>
<b><u>Standards, regulation and transitioning from level 3</u></b>	
<b><u>Joining up technical education and ensuring a smooth transition between T Levels and level 4 and 5 qualifications</u></b>	
<b>Ana Osbourne</b> , Deputy Director, Approvals, Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>36</b>
<b><u>Maintaining the integrity in standards of the reformed qualifications</u></b>	
<b>Bethany Hughes</b> , Senior Manager in Strategic Relationships for Vocational and Technical Qualifications, Ofqual ( <i>text to be submitted by speaker</i> )	<b>38</b>
Questions and comments from the floor ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>39</b>
<b><u>Establishing Institutes of Technology</u></b>	
<b>Professor Janice Kay</b> , Provost and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Exeter ( <i>text to be submitted by speaker</i> )	<b>45</b>
<b>Clare Riley</b> , FE and HE Engagement Manager, Microsoft ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>46</b>
<b><u>Key issues for the delivery of higher technical education - funding, tackling provision 'cold spots' and addressing skills gaps</u></b>	
<b>Nikos Savvas</b> , Principal and Chief Executive Officer, West Suffolk College ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>49</b>
<b>Nic Hutchins</b> , Principal Skills Manager, Apprenticeships, Greater Manchester Combined Authority ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>51</b>
<b>Rachel Staples</b> , Head, Qualifications and Product Development, Association of Accounting Technicians ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>63</b>
<b>John Widdowson</b> , Principal and Chief Executive, New College Durham ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>55</b>
Questions and comments from the floor with <b>Professor Janice Kay</b> , Provost and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Exeter and <b>Clare Riley</b> , FE and HE Engagement Manager, Microsoft ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>57</b>
<b><u>Session Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks</u></b>	
<b>Rt Hon the Baroness Garden of Frognal</b> , Deputy Speaker (Lords) ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>62</b>
<b>Sean Cudmore</b> , Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum ( <i>transcript</i> )	<b>63</b>
<b><u>Comments</u></b>	
<b>Lee Bryer</b> , Research Manager, Construction Industry Training Board	
<b><u>List of Delegates Registered for Seminar</u></b>	<b>66</b>
<b><u>Contributor Biographies</u></b>	<b>69</b>
<b><u>About the Core Sponsors of the Westminster Higher Education Forum</u></b>	<b>72</b>

Please be advised that speakers' PowerPoint presentations are included within the transcript itself, just beneath the relevant speaker's text. Please note that not all speakers are able to grant permission for us to include their slides.

## About this Publication

This publication reflects proceedings at the Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference: Reforming higher technical education in England - Level 4 and 5 qualifications, funding, regulation and the introduction of Institutes of Technology held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. The views expressed in the articles are those of the named authors, not those of the Forum or the sponsors, apart from their own articles.

Although Westminster Higher Education Forum is grateful to all sponsors for the funding on which we depend, participation in events and publications is never conditional on being a sponsor. As well as funding ongoing operations, sponsorship enables the Forum to distribute complimentary copies of publications, and offer complimentary tickets for events, to Government ministers, parliamentarians and officials most involved in policy.

This publication is copyright. Its copying, in whole or in part, is not permitted without the prior written consent of the publishers. However, extracts of the text may be reproduced for academic or review purposes, subject to the conditions of use outlined in the previous page, providing they are accurate, are not used in a misleading context and the author, their organisation and the Westminster Higher Education Forum are acknowledged. We would also appreciate being informed.

### **Westminster Higher Education Forum**

UK Headquarters  
4 Bracknell Beeches  
Old Bracknell Lane West  
Bracknell  
Berkshire RG12 7BW

T: 01344 864796

F: 01344 420121

[publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk](mailto:publications@westminsterforumprojects.co.uk)

### **Directors**

Peter van Gelder

Chris Whitehouse