



## **Draft minutes of the OfS board meeting, 22 April 2021**

**Location: by video or telephone conference**

**Timings: 1000-1130**

- Present members: James Wharton (chair)  
Martin Coleman  
Nicola Dandridge (chief executive)  
Gurpreet Dehal  
Elizabeth Fagan  
Katja Hall  
Verity Hancock  
Kathryn King  
Kate Lander  
Simon Levine  
Martha Longdon  
Chris Millward (Director for Fair Access and Participation)  
David Palfreyman  
Monisha Shah  
Steve West
- Attendees: Hannah Sheehan, Department for Education (DfE) representative  
Jack Thomlinson, Department for Education (DfE) representative
- Apologies: None
- Officers: Camilla Briault, Strategic Business Manager  
Ed Davison  
Josh Fleming  
Nick Holland, Competition and Registration Manager  
Paul Huffer, Head of Legal  
Susan Lapworth, Director of Regulation  
Paula McLeod, Corporate Governance Senior Adviser (clerk)  
Richard Puttock, Director of Data, Foresight and Analysis  
Conor Ryan, Director of External Relations  
Nolan Smith, Director of Resources and Finance  
Ben Whitestone, Head of Governance

## Chair's welcome

1. The chair welcomed members to the meeting. He also welcomed Hannah Sheehan and Jack Thomlinson, who were representing the Department for Education (DfE). He introduced Camilla Briault, Strategic Business Manager at the OfS, and her colleague, Nick Holland, Competition and Registration Manager, who were observing the meeting.
2. The chair congratulated Professor Steve West on his election to the chair of UUK and announced Steve's decision to step down from the board. He will attend his last meeting on 13 May 2021.
3. Since taking over in the role, the chair advised the board that he had met with a number of stakeholders and explored a range of issues. Along with the chief executive, he had met with the Secretary of State and engaged in positive and constructive discussions on a variety of matters.
4. The board noted its general duties as set out on the agenda and the need to have regard to these as it considered papers and made decisions.

## Approval of March minutes (paper 2.1)

5. The minutes of the board meeting held on 9 March 2021 were approved.

## Consultation on regulating quality and standards in higher education: policy discussion (paper 3.1)

6. The Director of Regulation presented a preliminary summary of the emerging themes taken from the responses to the recent quality and standards consultation and she thanked colleagues for their work in producing the analysis in a very short timescale.
7. In introducing the presentation, the director advised that 271 responses had been received from a diverse range of sources including student unions, professional, statutory and regulatory bodies, individual students, and organisations outside of England. However, the majority were from providers regulated by the OfS.
8. A short summary of the points made in the consultation responses were discussed with the board.

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### 10. Exempt from publication

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- 16. Exempt from publication
- 17. Exempt from publication
- 18. The board thanked the directors for their presentations and for the opportunity to contribute the discussions. They welcomed the offer to discuss the issues further with the directors outside of the meeting and looked forward to receiving an update on progress at future meetings.

### **Closing remarks**

- 19. The chair thanked members for their participation, noting he had been impressed with the quality of the discussion.
- 20. He reminded members that the next meeting of the board is scheduled for 13 May 2021.

The meeting closed at 1130.