

# *Hot Breakfast Briefing:* **The HE White Paper**

**July 15 2011**

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# Agenda

1. Context & content – Steve Besley
2. Questions & outcomes – Louis Coiffait
3. Reactions & responses – Pam Tatlow, CEO of Million+
4. Q & A

# Context & content

Steve Besley (@stevebesley)

# 1

# Latest developments

2 key drivers

3 important names

4 central themes

## 2 key drivers

### **Political**

*“this White Paper comes as part of the wider government agenda to put more power into the hands of the consumer”* BIS press release

### **Economic**

*“since this Review was commissioned, the pressure on public spending has increased significantly”* Lord Browne

## 3 important names

### **Robbins (1963)**

*“places should be available to all who were qualified by ability and attainment”*

### **Dearing (1997)**

- Detailed review, 93 recommendations
- Led to introduction of means-tested annual tuition fee

### **Browne (2010)**

- Identified 6 principles
- More investment; greater choice; open entitlement; deferred payment; affordable payment; equity for part-timers

## 4 central themes

### 1) Putting HE back on a sustainable footing

- Pay back scheme shaped by Browne
- Gov claiming increased investment
- Further work on efficiencies, transition to 2012, postgrad funding, early payback

### 2) Putting students at the heart of the system

- Range of measures to help create the 'informed consumer'
- Influenced by Russell Group's booklet
- Focus on more easy to use data
- Backed up by clearer expectations, new review procedure, clear complaints procedure

## 4 central themes

### 3) Improving social mobility

- Range of familiar measures (schools, careers guidance, pre-app data, access provision) and resurrected ones (PQA)
- Important roles for OFFA, Milburn and Hughes

### 4) Creating a more diverse and responsive sector

- Gradual lifting of number controls through 'core and margin' model
- Review of some traditional barriers (DAP and university title) as a way of opening out the market
- Development of a new uniform regulatory framework

# Some important numbers

85,000

4000

168,000

669,956

83

52

7

5

10%

60%

70%

80%

7,793

# The new order

Government  
Universities  
FE  
New providers  
Employers  
Students  
HEFCE  
UCAS  
OFFA  
QAA  
OIA  
HEA

# Questions & outcomes

Louis Coiffait (@louismmmcoiffait)

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# Latest developments

3 insights from Blue Skies

4 likely outcomes

5 key outstanding questions

## 3 insights from [www.pearsonblueskies.com](http://www.pearsonblueskies.com)



Recent PCPL publication

***Blue Skies: New thinking about the future of higher education***  
*A collection of thirty-eight new ideas from leading thinkers about the future of higher education*

- 1) No surprises  
*Willetts article: 'Putting students at the heart of higher education'*
- 2) Positive and progressive result for part-timers  
*Nick Pearce of IPPR*
- 2) Student expectations are changing  
*Aaron Porter and Jamie O'Connell of The Student Room*

*Visit the site to download PDFs, watch videos and share your views*

## 4 likely outcomes

### 1) Further consultation

- Early Repayments of loans for those able to pay
- HEFCE Teaching Funding & Student Number Controls
- 'additional' places for those with business/charity sponsorship
- Regulatory Framework
- potentially mandatory 'student charter' of consumer rights
- title 'university' under review (nod to smaller HEIs)
- UCAS review of PQA reporting Q1 2012

### 2) Reflection and debate about the value and purpose of HE

- to students
- to society
- to the taxpayer

## 4 likely outcomes

### 3) Treasury concerns about cost of loan debt

- more 'progressive' for some students
- discount for many already able to pay (£15k > £21k)
- Need to simplify system

### 4) Ongoing tweaking following so much change at once

- some reshaping of the sector
- changing total numbers cap to ensure competition and mobility
- increasing the 'margin' places
- ensuring fair regulation and quality

## 5 key outstanding questions

### 1) **Is higher education really a 'market' now?**

Funding following the students, now at the 'heart' of the system  
But a complex funding picture  
Some doubtful that it can ever truly be a market (or should be)

### 2) **Will the sector be more sustainable?**

Impact of the auction of <£7.5k places unclear over time (20k / 8% 'margin' 2012/13)  
AAB+ / equivalent reliable indicator of potential to benefit from HE

### 3) **What will new providers add?**

Innovation, competition and efficiency  
Level playing-field with regulation  
Concerns over cherry-picking, impact on existing providers and poor practice (e.g. some recent USA examples)

## 5 key outstanding questions

### 4) **Will student behaviour change?**

Additional info to encourage 'rational consumer' behaviour (sealed with a KIS?)

But data often complex and variable, harder for some to base choices on

Should the customer always be right in education

### 5) **Is the new system fair?**

Variety of measures to address social equity

But lots of powerful forces for change at once, some fear negative outcomes for social inequality

e.g. mixed messages for young people about debt and impact of merit-based scholarships for high achievers

## 5 key quotes

- 1) *“It is ironic that a new funding arrangement that was intended to allow the market to determine cost should effectively now rely on the Government to set the level of fees in a significant number of cases.”*  
Bahram Bekhradnia. HEPI
- 2) *“The Government must ensure that the detailed proposals on student number controls do not result in unintended consequences that could be damaging to students and universities’ efforts to widen participation.”*  
Sir Steve Smith, President Universities UK
- 3) *“Ministers are at risk of creating stability for the perceived best but complete chaos for the rest.”*  
Aaron Porter, Former NUS President

## 5 key quotes

- 4) *"The Government needs to avoid driving down standards by auctioning students to low-cost institutions."*  
Paul Wellings, Chair 1994 Group
- 5) *"While we would have liked to see even more places available and a price threshold lower than £7,500...we understand the pressure on the public purse."*  
Martin Doel, Chief Executive AoC

# Reactions & responses

Pam Tatlow (@million\_plus)

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# Route 66

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# The New HE Landscape



leading the  
university agenda



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# Exchequer: Student / graduate contribution

- **95:5 (current)**
- **76:24 (2012)**

## HE White Paper Chapter 5 para. 6.9

***‘The Government must maintain control of its financial exposure’***

**Numbers-high grades =  
new core + competition(9k)**

**million +**

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New 'core' - 20,000 =  
competition (7.5k fees or less)

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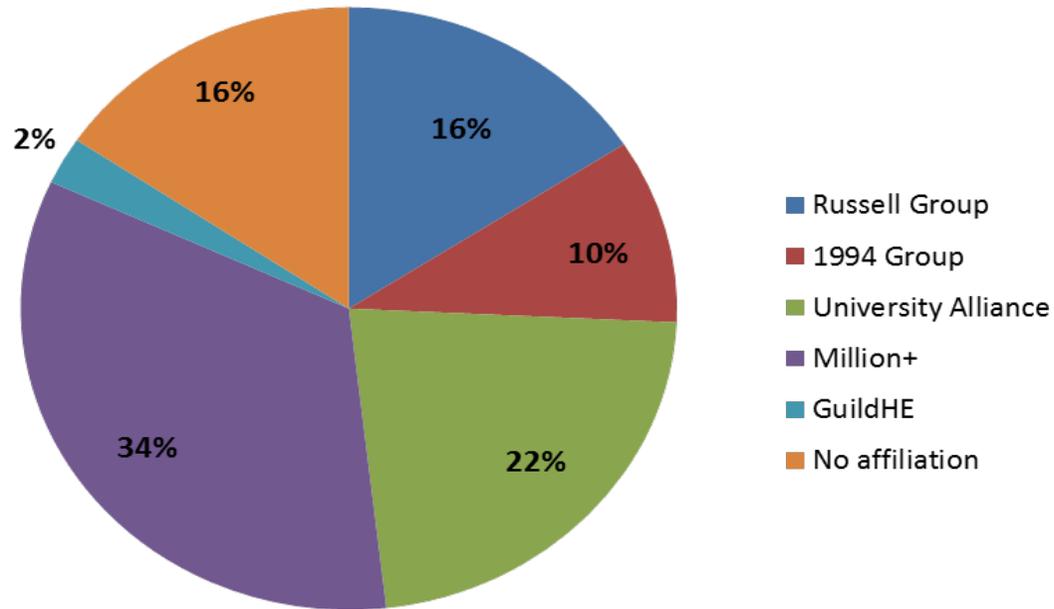
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# Non-White UK domiciled

million +

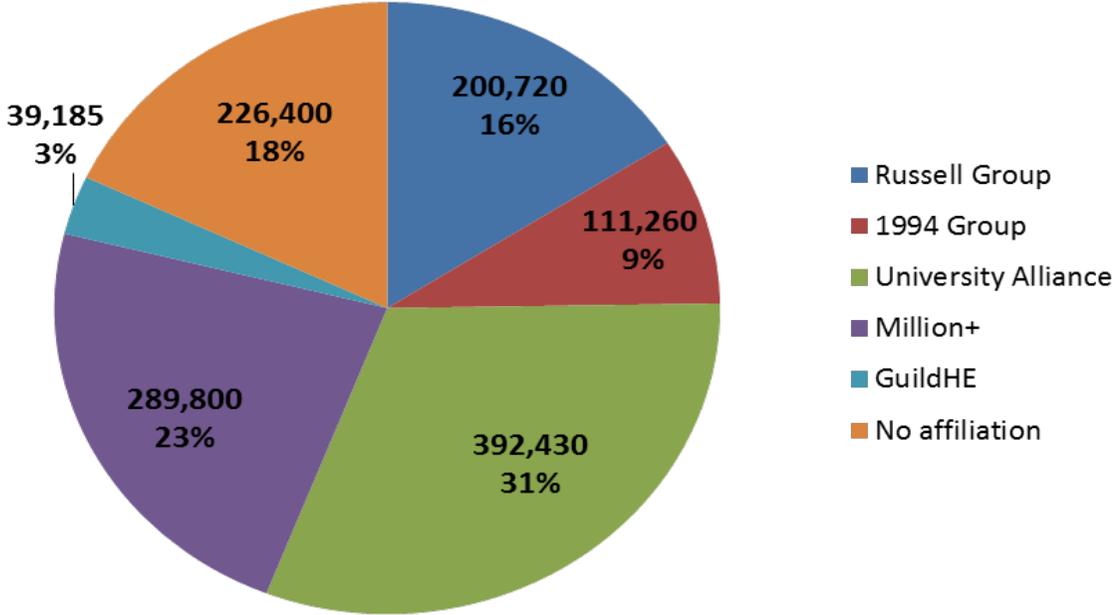
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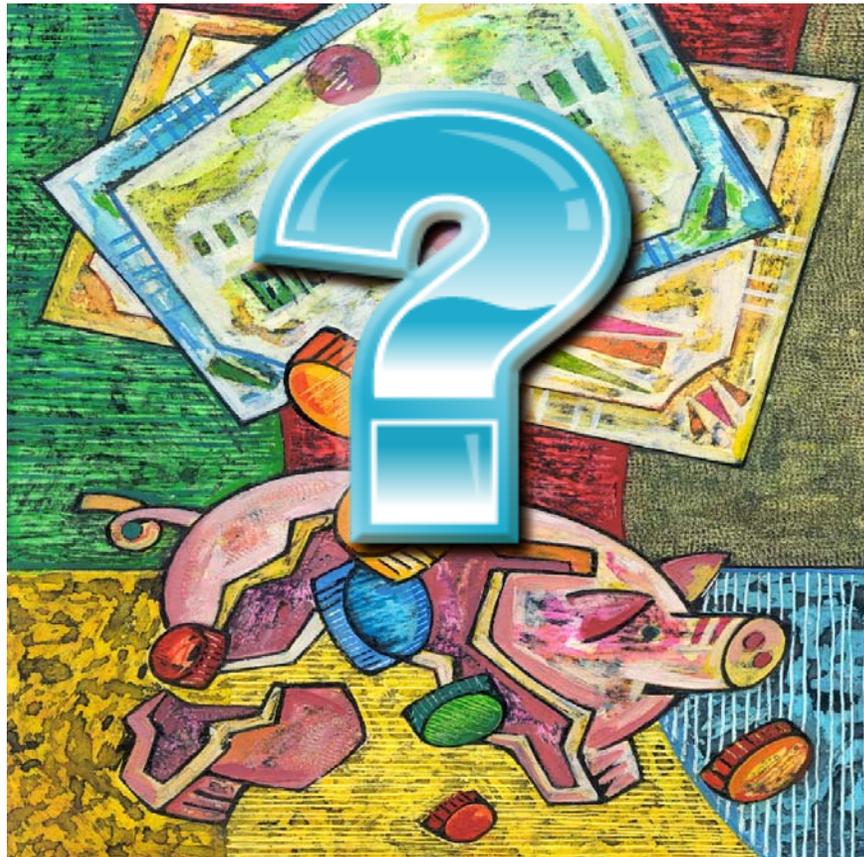
# Mature Students

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# Dr Martin Luther King

**'I had a dream' not 'I had a plan'**

# University = the best career move you can make

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**Thank you !**  
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Q & A

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### 3 housekeeping requests

- 1) Please put your trays and cups on the racks
- 2) Please leave your voting pad
- 3) Please complete a feedback form

Thank you!

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