



Pearson

Policy Watch

Your guide to what's happening in the world of education



The week in a nutshell

This week the Industry and Regulators Lords Committee held the first session of their inquiry into the work of the Office for Students (OfS). Peers heard from Dame Nicola Dandridge (former Chief Executive of the OfS), and Sir Michael Barber (its former Chair), about the establishment, role and remit of the OfS, and its relationships with government and HE institutions. [Another further session](#) is set for Tuesday 14 March, with ex-Ministers, Charles Clarke and Lord Johnson of Marylebone.

The Department for Education (DfE) and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) published various guidance documents pertaining to 2023 -2024 funding this week. ESFA documents include: methodology for establishing [maximum amounts for advanced learner loans designated qualifications](#); [advanced learner loans funding and rules](#); the [rules that apply to ESFA funded adult education budget](#) (AEB) provision; and information about [local authority education funding and expenditure plans](#).

Top stories

DfE publishes Lifelong Loan Entitlement consultation response

- The DfE [published its response](#) to last year's consultation on the Lifelong Loan Entitlement, following the second reading of the Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) [Bill](#) in Parliament last week. Notable elements of the response include:
- People up to age 60, including returning students, will be entitled to the LLE, equivalent to £37,000 in today's fees.
- The "Equivalent or Lower Qualification (ELQ) exception rule" will be removed, enabling people to be funded to study at an equivalent or lower level than their existing qualifications to facilitate reskilling.
- To put technical study on a par with academic routes, maintenance support will be expanded to be offered across all eligible technical and part-time courses the LLE will fund.
- Higher Technical Qualifications will also be funded through the new system.

DfE to defer delivery of three T Levels

- The Department for Education has said in a [written ministerial statement](#) that it will defer first delivery of three T Levels in Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy; Craft and Design; and Media, Broadcast and Production from 2023 to 2024.
- They have also decided to defer the Catering T Level beyond 2024, to allow time to consult with employers and sector bodies, and will provide an update on the rollout timetable of this T Level in due course.
- The Department also [published a new T Level Action Plan 2022/23](#), which provides information on T Level starts, student characteristics, providers, placements, and progression.

OfS confirms new HE funding

- The Office for Students (OfS) has [confirmed £16m of recurrent funding](#) to expand the development and delivery of HE qualifications, of which £8m will support the development of Level 6 degree apprenticeship training programmes and £8m to increase the provision of Level 4 and 5 qualifications.
- The regulator also announced it is [awarding £9.6m in funding to improve teaching and access to performing arts courses](#) at specialist HE providers across England, intended to improve access and teaching resources for contemporary music, drama and dance courses.

The Sutton Trust publishes research on private tutoring

- The Sutton Trust has published new research providing a detailed picture of [trends in the use of private tutoring](#), as well as the extra tuition offered by schools in the wake of the pandemic.
- The report also provides an overview of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) and how it has been delivered to date, concluding that the early focus of the programme on quality provision was drowned out by an overriding objective to scale up. The researchers say this must be rebalanced towards quality, to ensure value for money and effectiveness of in-school tutoring going forward. Other findings include that:
 - 30% of young people aged 11-16 report having had private tutoring, up from 27% pre-pandemic, and the joint highest figure since the time series began in 2005.
 - Black and Asian pupils were more than twice as likely to have ever received private tutoring (50% and 55%), compared to white pupils (24%). 46% of pupils in London had received private tutoring, compared to 30% for England as a whole.
 - 24% of young people report receiving tutoring from their school in the 2021/22 school year, up from 18% in the previous year. Most of this is in the form of small group tutoring (20% of pupils in 2021/22), compared to 7% one-to-one.
- The full report, including recommendations for government and schools, is available [here](#).

Pearson news

My Twist on a Tale - Winners To celebrate World Book Day, announce the winners of our #MyTwistOnATale #Represent! writing competition! Congratulations to all the winners. You can [read all the winning stories now](#).

Pearson tweet of the week



Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 10 March 2023

Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: SEND and Alternative Provision
- Commons: Science and Technology Framework
- Commons: Childcare and Early Years (Supplementary Estimates Day)
- Westminster Hall: Post-16 Education: Bolsover
- Westminster Hall: Racial Discrimination in Schools
- Lords: Education (School Teachers' Qualifications and Induction Arrangements) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022
- WMS: Science and Technology Update
- WMS: Government Response to the Lifelong Loan Entitlement Consultation
- WMS: School Sports Access and Funding
- WMS: T Levels Update
- Commons Library: Estimates day debate: childcare and early years spending by the DfE
- Industry and Regulators Committee: New inquiry launched into the work of the Office for Students
- Education Committee: Department for Education Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2022-23
- Education Committee: Ofqual supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2022-23
- Education Committee: Ofsted Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2022-23
- Education Committee: Teachers' Pension Scheme Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2022-23
- Science and Technology Committee (Lords): Letter from Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to Baroness Brown of Cambridge on people and skills in UK science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Science and Technology Committee (Lords): Government response to "Science and technology superpower": more than a slogan?
- Science and Technology Committee (Commons): Correspondence from the Committee to the newly appointed Government Chief Scientific Adviser regarding her new role
- Science and Technology Committee (Commons): Correspondence to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, regarding the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's return of £1.6 billion of funds to the Treasury that had been allocated to Horizon Europe and Euratom association

Regulatory and funding bodies

- ESFA Update: 8 March 2023
- ESFA: Section 251: 2023 to 2024
- ESFA: Maximum loan amounts for advanced learner loans designated qualifications 2023 to 2024
- ESFA: Advanced learner loans funding rules 2023 to 2024
- ESFA: Adult education budget (AEB) funding rules 2023 to 2024
- QAA launches second suite of review Subject Benchmark Statements
- QAA: The improvement of student learning by linking inclusion accessibility and academic integrity
- OfS: Mid-year allocations of recurrent funding for 2022-23
- OfS: Initiative funding for specialist performing arts providers: Funding allocations
- UKRI: £250m to secure the UK's world-leading position in technologies of tomorrow

Schools

- German given boost as part of new schools language programme
- School sports given huge boost to level the playing field for next generation of Lionesses
- Join the Latin Excellence Programme
- International relocation payments
- Initial teacher training recruitment: candidate applications and numbers, February 2023
- Ten years of Supporting Families: Supporting Families programme annual report 2022-23
- Sutton Trust: Tutoring – the new landscape
- Children's Commissioner: Children's mental health services 2021-2022
- Social Market Foundation: Learning from experience: How to make high quality work experience for all a reality

Further Education & Skills

- T Level action plan: 2022 to 2023
- FE funding: initial teacher education (ITE) bursaries 2023 to 2024
- Cost barriers to learning at Level 3

Higher Education

- Student finance to be radically transformed from 2025
- Lifelong loan entitlement (Consultation outcome)
- Lifelong loan entitlement: equality analysis
- Lifelong loan entitlement: impact assessment (Updated)
- Horizon Europe Guarantee scheme extension to support UK R&D
- Plan to forge a better Britain through science and technology unveiled
- Higher technical education skills injection fund: successful applicants 2022 to 2023
- Research, development and innovation (RDI) organisational landscape: an independent review
- OfS to consult on investigation fees
- OfS: Funding boost puts performing arts and degree apprenticeships in the limelight
- RSC: New £5.5m national Institute of Technical Skills and Strategy to support UK's bid to be a global research and innovation superpower
- HEPI: Unleash the levelling up potential of universities by attracting foreign investment into UK innovation
- HEPI: London students are more satisfied with their experience than those elsewhere in England

Scotland

- Call to re-join research funding programme
- Celebrating apprenticeships
- Historic pay offer for teachers

Wales

- Free school meals extended for April and May holidays
- New plan to equip today's children and workers with the skills needed to work in the 'net zero' jobs of tomorrow

- [Written Statement: Building capability to support the Foundational Economy](#)
- [A new foundational economy academy in Wales: scoping and feasibility study](#)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- [Office for Students: Consultation on payment of fees for investigations](#) Closes: 14 April 2023

Closing consultations

- [HM Treasury: R&D Tax Reliefs Review: Consultation on a single scheme](#) Closes: 13 March 2023

Ongoing consultations

- [Consultation on regulating level 1 and 2 qualifications designed to lead to employment](#)
Closes: 20 March 2023
- [Adoption support agencies: proposed regulation changes](#) Closes: 20 March 2023
- [Quality Assurance Agency: Revised Subject Benchmark Statement for English](#) Closes: 20 March 2023
- [Office for Students: Consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education](#) Closes: 4 May 2023
- [Scottish Government: Rural and Islands College Merger proposal: Consultation](#) Closes: 5 May 2023
- [Use of reasonable force and restrictive practices in schools - Call for evidence](#) Closes: 11 May 2023

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 13 March

Westminster Hall

- [e-petition 623390, relating to suicide prevention and the national curriculum](#) (Nick Fletcher, Con, Don Valley)

Tuesday 14 March

Commons Committees

- [Education Committee: Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance](#) (with Skills Minister Rob Halfon)

House of Lords

- [Lord Holmes of Richmond \(Con\) to ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to designate data, digital, and financial literacy as compulsory subjects in primary and secondary schools in England.](#)

Lords Committees

- [Industry and Regulators Committee: The work of the OfS](#) (with Jo Johnson and Charles Clarke)

All-Party Parliamentary Group

- [APPG on Childcare and Early Education](#)

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- All-Party Parliamentary University Group

Wednesday 15 March

House of Commons

- Science, Innovation and Technology Oral Questions
- Budget Statement

Lords Committees

- Public Services Committee: Review of the Children's social care implementation strategy and family hubs rollout

Thursday 16 March

House of Commons

- Continuation of the Budget Debate

House of Lords

- Lord Storey (Lib Dem) to ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on students of industrial action in universities.
- Debate: Spring Budget 2023