



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

This week saw the [second reading](#) of the Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill in the House of Commons. MPs from across the house pressed Government for further detail on the proposals, with Gillian Keegan and Robert Halfon assuring them that detail on the policy and the mechanism of the bill would be published before report stage. Representing Labour, Matt Western said the Opposition are prepared to support the Minister throughout the bill's passage.

The Lords Industry and Regulators Committee launched a new inquiry into [the work of the Office for Students](#). The inquiry will scrutinise whether the statutory duties of the OfS are clear and examine its performance against those duties since its establishment.

Top stories

Government publishes SEND and AP improvement plan

- The Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) have published their [SEND and alternative provision \(AP\) improvement plan](#), outlining the Government's approach to the sector following the SEND and AP green paper and subsequent public consultation.
- The commitments outlined in the new plan broadly include:
 - A national system underpinned by National Standards
 - Successful transitions and preparation for adulthood
 - A skilled workforce and excellent leadership
 - Strengthened accountabilities and clear routes of redress
 - A financially sustainable system delivering improved outcomes
- The full plan can be found [here](#), and a written ministerial statement from Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, Claire Coutinho [here](#).

L&W/DfE: Cost barriers to learning at Level 3

- The **Learning and Work Institute** has [conducted research](#) on behalf of the **Department for Education** to understand the **cost barriers to Level 3 learning** and the potential impact of additional financial support being available. Key findings include:
 - Over half (54 per cent) of learners said that they struggled to cover their living costs to some extent while learning.
 - Of those who were employed prior to taking part in learning, four in ten (42 per cent) had to reduce their working hours or stop working.
 - More than two in five (44 per cent) learners had not heard of Learner Support or the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary Fund.
 - The four key barriers to pursuing learning identified by interviewees were awareness and understanding of learning options, cost, time and confidence.

DSIT publishes research and innovation workforce report

- The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology has [published a report](#) detailing findings from the 2022 survey of the UK research and innovation workforce. Key themes from the report include:
 - Research, development and innovation policies need to consider the entire research and innovation workforce
 - The R&I workforce is highly educated, skilled and mobile, and there are opportunities to make UK R&I more attractive to work in
 - There is potential to improving diversity of the R&I workforce to better reflect the UK population, not only to improve work culture, but also to increase innovation in teams and help the UK to meet business demand for more R&I workers.

Pearson news

Regional Network Events 2023 We are delighted to be running face-to-face networking events, hosted by local Institutes of Technology, to update on the new developments in the Higher Education sector, and discuss the delivery and support of our qualifications, assessments, and resources - including our new Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs). [To sign up click here](#)



Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Education Oral Questions
- Commons: Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill – second reading
- WMS: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 3 March 2023

- Education Committee: Correspondence to the Sec. of State regarding the extension of maths up to 18
- Foreign Affairs Committee: UK Universities' Engagement with Autocracies
- Education Sector Advisory Group minutes 2 November 2022

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofqual: National assessments regulation annual report 2022
- Subject matter specialists for Ofqual
- ESFA Update: 1 March 2023
- ESFA: 19+ funding allocations guidance 2023 to 2024
- OIAHE: Complaints relating to academic misconduct

Schools

- Transformational reform begins for children and young people with SEND
- SEND and alternative provision improvement plan
- SEND review: right support, right place, right time (Consultation outcome)
- 16 to 18 school, college & multi-academy trust performance data in England: 2021 to 2022 (updated)
- Secondary school performance data in England: 2021 to 2022 (updated)

Further Education & Skills

- NEET age 16 to 24: 2022
- AoC: Skills gap can be filled by greater investment

Higher Education

- ONS: Cost of living and higher education students, England: 30 January to 13 February 2023
- DSIT: Research and innovation (R&I) workforce survey report, 2022
- Blackbullion: Student Money & Wellbeing 2023
- CaSE: R&D Sector urges rapid progress on UK association to EU programmes

Scotland

- School leaver attainment and destinations
- Teacher Workforce Planning Advisory Group: initial teacher education intake figures 2022
- Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations, No. 5: 2023 Edition
- Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment Group minutes: June 2022

Wales

- Estyn annual remit: 2023 to 2024
- Oral Statement: Net Zero Skills Strategy
- Stronger, fairer greener Wales: net zero skills
- Net zero skills action plan
- Net zero skills: case studies
- Net zero skills: 2023 progress update
- Skills emission sector overview and cross cutting themes

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 3 March 2023

- Green personal learning accounts (PLAs): approved courses
- Further education institutions: funding allocations 2023 to 2024
- Post-16 local authority: sixth form funding allocations 2023 to 2024
- Post-16 local authority: adult community learning funding allocations 2023 to 2024
- Oral Statement: The Innovation Strategy
- New innovation strategy launched for a stronger, fairer and greener Wales
- Written Statement: Launch of the new Innovation Strategy for Wales
- Innovation strategy for Wales
- Next phase of the Sêr Cymru research funding programme (Consultation outcome)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Office for Students: Consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education Closes: May 2023
- Scottish Government: Rural and Islands College Merger proposal: Consultation Closes: 5 May 2023

Closing consultations

- De-designation of QAA as the designated quality body in England Closes: 3 March 2023
- Welsh Government: Changes to school admission appeal arrangements Closes: 8 March 2023

Ongoing consultations

- HM Treasury: R&D Tax Reliefs Review: Consultation on a single scheme Closes: 13 March 2023
- Consultation on regulating level 1 and 2 qualifications designed to lead to employment Closes: 20 March
- Adoption support agencies: proposed regulation changes Closes: 20 March 2023
- Quality Assurance Agency: Revised Subject Benchmark Statement for English Closes: 20 March 2023
- Use of reasonable force and restrictive practices in schools - Call for evidence Closes: 11 May 2023

What's happening in Parliament next week

Tuesday 7 March

Westminster Hall

- Post-16 education in Bolsover constituency (Mark Fletcher, Con, Bolsover)

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: Persistent absence and support disadvantaged pupils

All-Party Parliamentary Group

- APPG on Apprenticeships
- APPG on Street Children

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 3 March 2023

Wednesday 8 March

Westminster Hall

- Racial discrimination in schools (Janet Daby, Lab, Lewisham East)

House of Lords

- Education (School Teachers' Qualifications and Induction Arrangements) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2022 - Motion to approve and Motion to regret

All-Party Parliamentary Group

- APPG on the Future of Employment

Thursday 9 March

Commons Committees

- Public Accounts Committee: Education recovery in schools