



Michelle Donelan MP
Minister of State for Universities

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3rd September 2020

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for attending the recent meeting of the Higher Education taskforce.

As you are aware, increasing capacity to ensure as many students as possible can take up their places this academic year is a key priority for this government.

We want to support you to be able to take as many students as you can offer a high-quality experience to.

We will work with you to continue to remove barriers that may prevent you from offering additional places this year to students who have met their offers.

In our discussions, we have focused on the importance of government funding to support this drive.

We have already announced £10m to support the provision of high cost subjects, and as discussed with the taskforce already, I can now confirm that providers will be eligible to bid for a share of up to £10m capital funding.

This is in recognition of the impact that reverting to centre assessment grades for A levels has had on universities and the challenges they face as a result.

The fund will support capital expenditure on equipment and physical or digital infrastructure required to increase the number of students providers can admit this academic year. The fund will be administered by the OfS, and providers will be eligible to bid for projects that support expansion in 2020/21.

I will be writing to the OfS shortly to set out the priorities for this additional funding. The exact allocation of the funding will be subject to consultation with you in the coming weeks.

I appreciate the efforts being made by providers to adapt to the current unprecedented situation, and I trust that this additional investment will be of assistance.

I have copied this letter to members of the HE taskforce.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle Donelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end of the name.

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