

Policy headlines

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Spring statement, cost of living, and NAO on university finances

UKRAINE

Sanctions and research collaborations with Russia; support for Ukraine

QUALITY REGULATION

B conditions confirmed; B£ and TEF consultations concluded

OFS BLENDED REVIEW

Susan Orr leading review of blended learning

ADMISSIONS

New code of practice and next steps for reform

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Can the situation be resolved?

UKRI STRATEGY

Nurse's vision realised

TERTIARY EDUCATION (WALES) BILL

Principles are passed; more to come on research, student voice, Welsh language



I'm not in Liverpool any more, Dorothy

But I was

JIM DICKINSON



WONKHE
SUs

NUS Conference

- Run up overshadowed by antisemitism controversy/Lowkey/Education Committee no-show
- Elected Shaima Dallali (City UoL President) as President, and Chloe Field (Deputy President, Liverpool Guild) as VP Higher Education
- Discussions on Ukraine, fees and funding, access, gender-based violence, student housing, international students and a “new vision” for education.
- Consensus-based experiment – smaller NUS and smaller event





VOTE CHLOE FOR NUS VICE PRESIDENT HIGHER EDUCATION!

HI I'M CHLOE FIELD AND I AM STANDING TO BE YOUR NEXT VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION! I AM COMMITTED TO BUILDING A NATIONAL UNION THAT CAMPAIGNS TO WIN A FREE, DECOLONISED AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION FOR ALL. THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN UNPRECEDENTED BUT FROM THE CLIMATE STRIKES TO KILL THE BILL, STUDENTS HAVE SHOWN THEIR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL. I AM STANDING TO BE YOUR NEXT VP HE TO ENSURE STUDENTS ARE SUPPORTED TO FIGHT FOR A BETTER FUTURE.



TACKLE SEXUAL VIOLENCE & DISCRIMINATION

AS AN OFFICER I HAVE RADICALLY REFORMED MY UNIVERSITY'S PROCESSES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE. I WILL WORK WITH THE VP LIBERATION TO PRESSURE OTHER UNIVERSITIES TO DO THE SAME AND TO EMBED TRAUMA-CENTRED SUPPORT ON OUR CAMPUSES AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

AS YOUR VP HE I WILL:

- ORGANISE WITH GRASSROOTS GROUPS TO BUILD A CULTURE ROOTED IN TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON OUR CAMPUSES
- CREATE RESOURCES AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO UNIONS WHO ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR THEIR INSTITUTION TO REFORM THEIR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICIES
- WORK WITH THE VP LIBERATION, TO ENSURE THAT OUR CAMPAIGNING WORK REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING FIGHTING AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA AND ANTI-SEMITISM ON OUR CAMPUSES.

MY RECORD

- DEPUTY PRESIDENT AT LIVERPOOL GUILD OF STUDENTS 2020-22
- RADICALLY REFORMED THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
- SECURED MILLIONS OF POUNDS IN RENT REBATES FOR STUDENTS ON MY CAMPUS.
- MOBILISED STUDENTS TO SUPPORT THE UCU IN THEIR LOCAL AND NATIONAL DISPUTES.



CHLOE HAS BEEN A VOCAL AND RADICAL CAMPAIGNER THROUGHOUT HER TIME AT THE LIVERPOOL GUILD AND I TRUST THAT SHE WILL CARRY THAT SAME DRIVE AND PASSION THROUGH TO NUS AND WORK TO MAKE VITAL CHANGES FOR HE STUDENTS. I KNOW SHE WILL TIGHTEN THE BONDS BETWEEN GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS AND THE NUS AND WORK TO PUT NUS AT THE FOREFRONT OF STUDENT STRUGGLES. – SARANYA THAMBIRAJAH, BRISTOL RENT STRIKE ORGANISER, BRISTOL SU EQUALITY LIBERATION AND ACCESS OFFICER 2022/2023

FIX THE STUDENT RENT CRISIS

THE 2021 ACCOMMODATION COSTS SURVEY REVEALED THAT CURRENT STUDENT RENTS ARE RISING AND INCREASINGLY MAKING EDUCATION INACCESSIBLE. IT IS TIME TO CUT STUDENT RENTS. AS YOUR VP HE I WILL:

- CUT THE RENT IN UNIVERSITY OWNED HALLS.
- ENSURE THAT ANY NEW HALLS BUILT ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR HALLS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES ACROSS THE UK.
- EMPOWER STUDENTS TO ORGANISE AGAINST DODGY LANDLORDS
- WORK WITH RENT STRIKERS AND SUS TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL STUDENTS TENANTS' UNION.



I AM ENDORSING CHLOE FIELD BECAUSE I BELIEVE SHE, ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITY, CAN CREATE A FREE, DECOLONISED AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR ALL. WE NEED A NATIONAL STUDENT UNION FIGHTING FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM BUILT ON CARE, JUSTICE AND LIBERATION. CHLOE WILL DO THAT AS THE NUS VPHE.

– SARA BAFO, GOLDSMITHS SU PRESIDENT



COMBAT THE MARKETISATION OF OUR EDUCATION

FOR TOO LONG, THE MARKETISATION OF EDUCATION HAS DIMINISHED OUR QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE. THERE SHOULD NO LONGER BE NO PAYWALL IN FRONT OF EDUCATION. AS YOUR VP HE I WILL:

- ORGANISE FOR FREE EDUCATION – WORKING FROM THE GRASSROOTS, I WILL ORGANISE STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO FIGHT FOR FREE AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION. TOGETHER WE WILL PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO END TUITION FEES.
- COLLABORATE WITH TRADE UNIONS AND BUILD SOLIDARITY – I WILL CONTINUE THE STRONG STUDENT-STAFF SOLIDARITY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN NUS AND TRADE UNIONS.
- OPPOSE NEW DETRIMENTAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR HE – NEW PROPOSALS FROM THE GOVERNMENT WILL CREATE FURTHER BARRIERS TO EDUCATION. I WILL OPPOSE THESE ATTACKS ON WORKING CLASS STUDENTS.



DECOLONISE OUR EDUCATION

OUR EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE CREATED AND BUILT UPON HISTORICAL COLONIALISM. WE NEED A STRONG MOVEMENT TO DECOLONISE OUR INSTITUTIONS AND GIVE STUDENTS THE CONFIDENCE TO CHALLENGE THESE POWERFUL INSTITUTIONS. AS VP HE I WILL:

- SUPPORT STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES WHO CAMPAIGN FOR DECOLONISED EDUCATION. FROM DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM, TO DIVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES AND OPPOSING PREVENT ON CAMPUS.
- CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE #NUSDECOLONISEEDUCATION BY PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR STUDENT ORGANISERS FIGHTING FOR DECOLONISED, LIBERATED EDUCATION.
- BE VOCAL AND SUPPORT ANTI COLONIAL AND ANTI IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES STANDING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH STUDENTS ACROSS THE WORLD.
- SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE OUTSIDE OF THE UNIVERSITY – CREATING ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SPACES AND COMMUNITIES TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND OUTSIDE OF THE UNIVERSITY.

VOTE SHAIMA DALLALI #1 FOR NUS NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Demarketised, Decolonised & Democratised Education

I will mobilise & support grassroots movements and activists in taking direct action in calling for change & campaigning for decolonised, funded and accessible education.

Student Living Costs & Mental Health

I will campaign for colleges & universities to offer culturally competent & comprehensive support services to students. I also pledge to work with SUs to establish renters unions, and will also look into ways to implement rent controls on university-provided accommodation.

Grassroots Organising & Mobilising SUs

I will improve our connections with SUs & grassroots organisers in our movement so that student organisers & leaders have unquestioning support when campaigning. I will also explore how NUS can provide additional mental health support for student organisers who suffer from burnout.

#STUDENTSNOTPROFIT



LARISSA KENNEDY

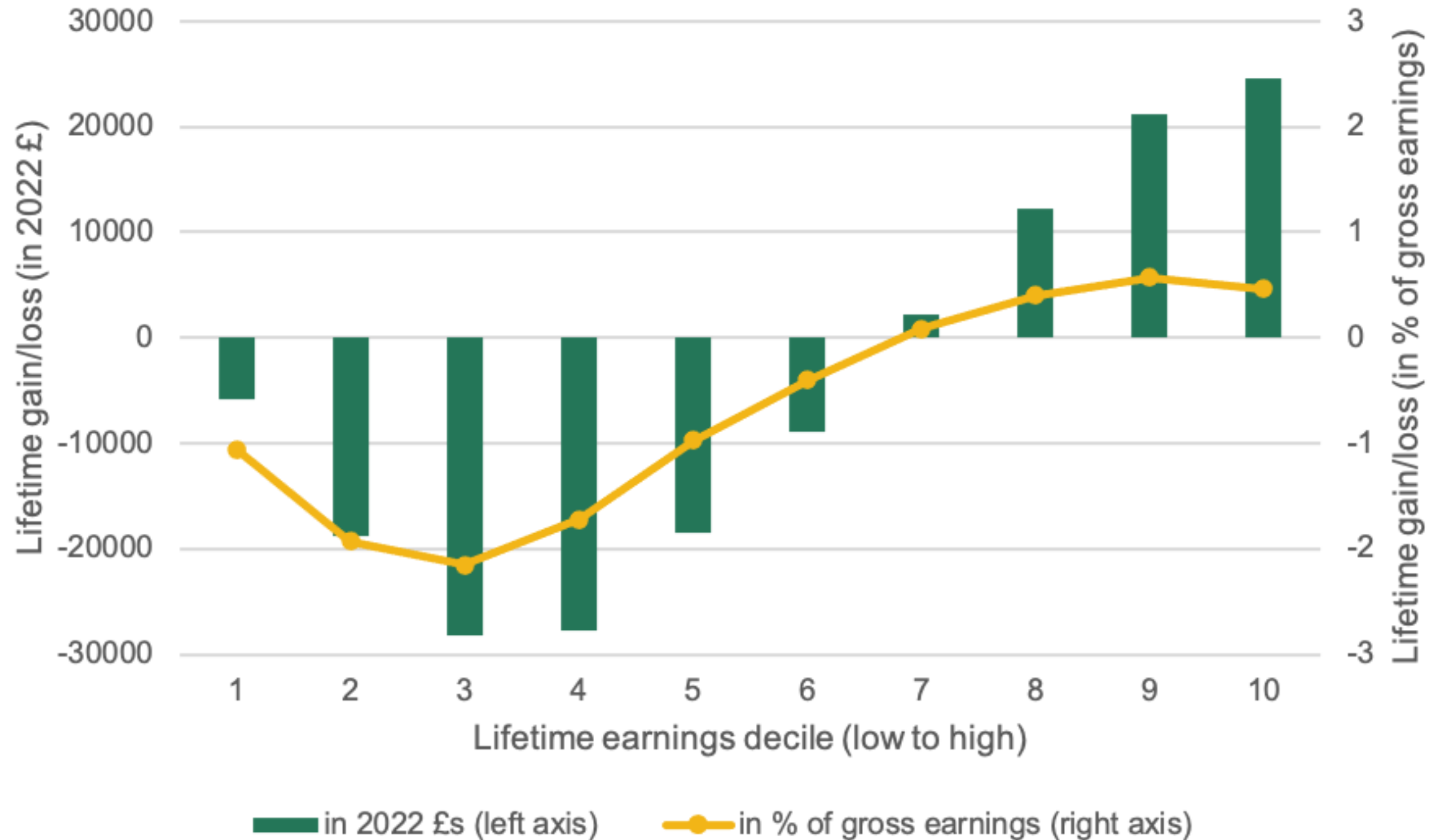
NUS National President

I can't wait to vote Shaima #1 for National President - handing over to her, I know the student movement would be in safe hands. Shaima will empower officers, organisers & students with the political education & capacity building we need to win.

As President of City SU, I...

- Led the 'Decolonise City' campaign
- Supported Unison on the in-housing campaign for cleaners & catering staff
- Organised the students' campaign & rally to support the UCU strikes at City
- Led the renaming of the Bayes Business School campaign, alongside student activists, due to links with slavery
- Campaigned for culturally competent mental health services
- Established the Friends of Palestine Society at City SU
- Campaigned against sexual violence & pushed for safe spaces for women
- Worked with grassroots organisers to campaign against PREVENT & securitisation on campus

Student finance



Student finance

- Intergenerational, gender, aspects
- Regional aspects
- Should we consider changes in budget terms (taxation) or student loans terms (DfE)?
- Martin Lewis and his “don’t do a gap year” message...

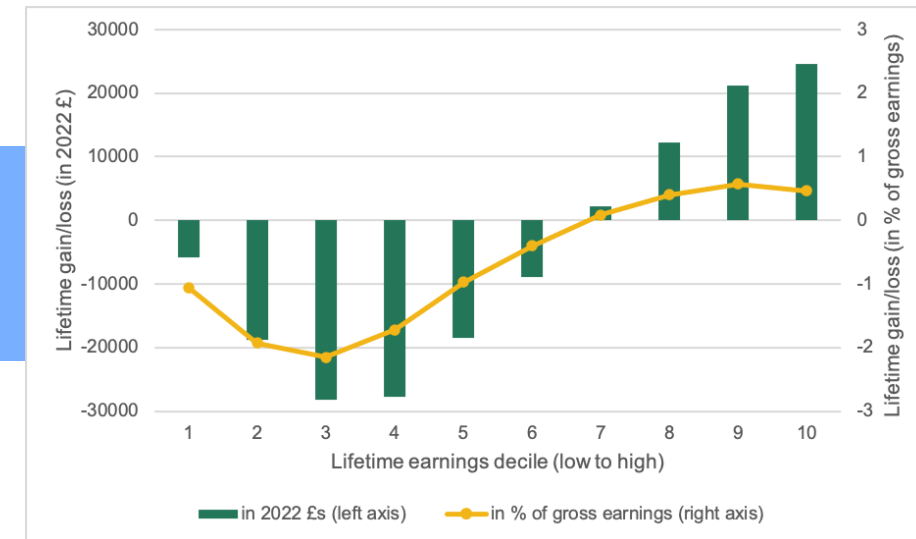
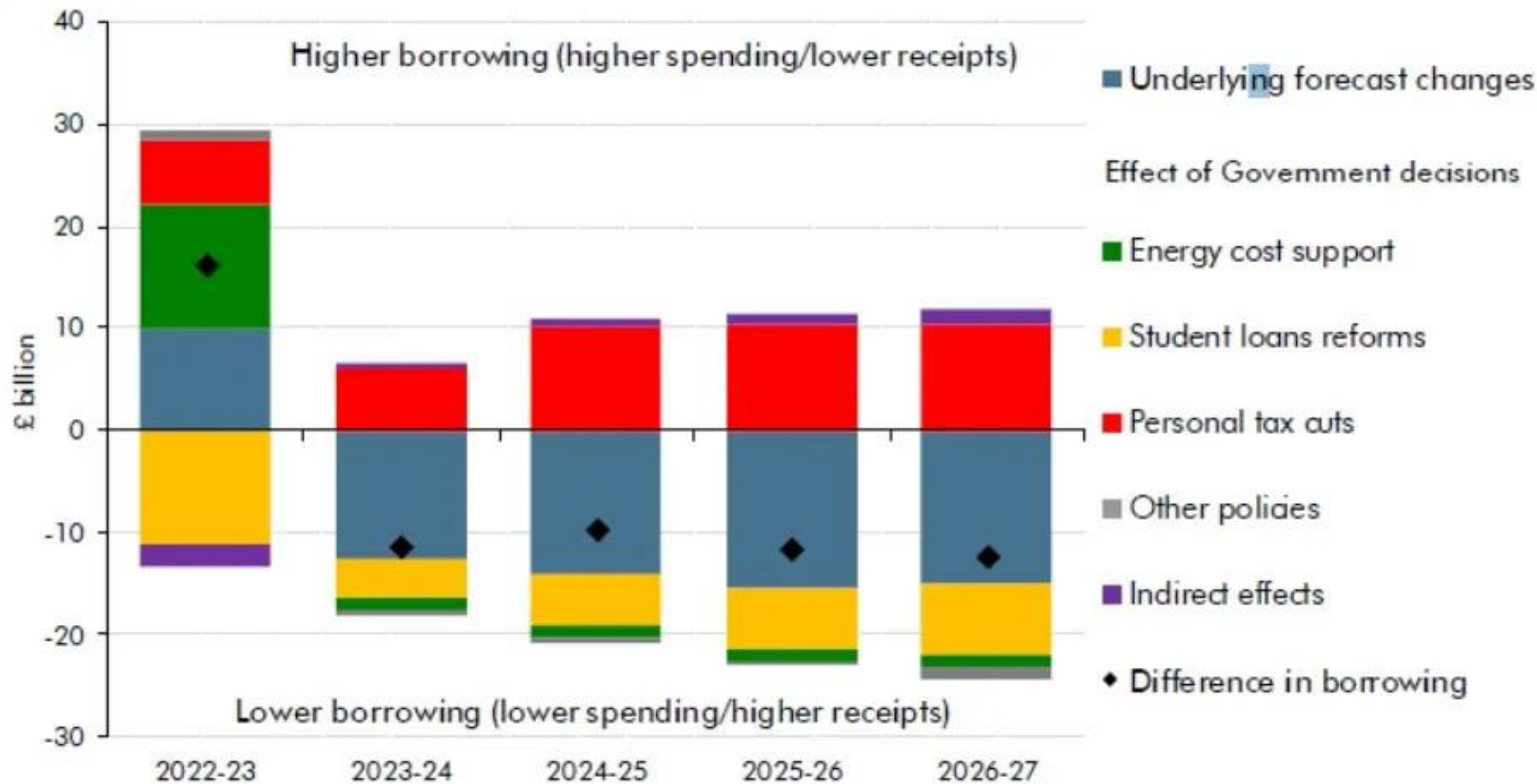


Chart 1.7: Changes in public sector net borrowing since our October forecast



Source: ONS, OBR

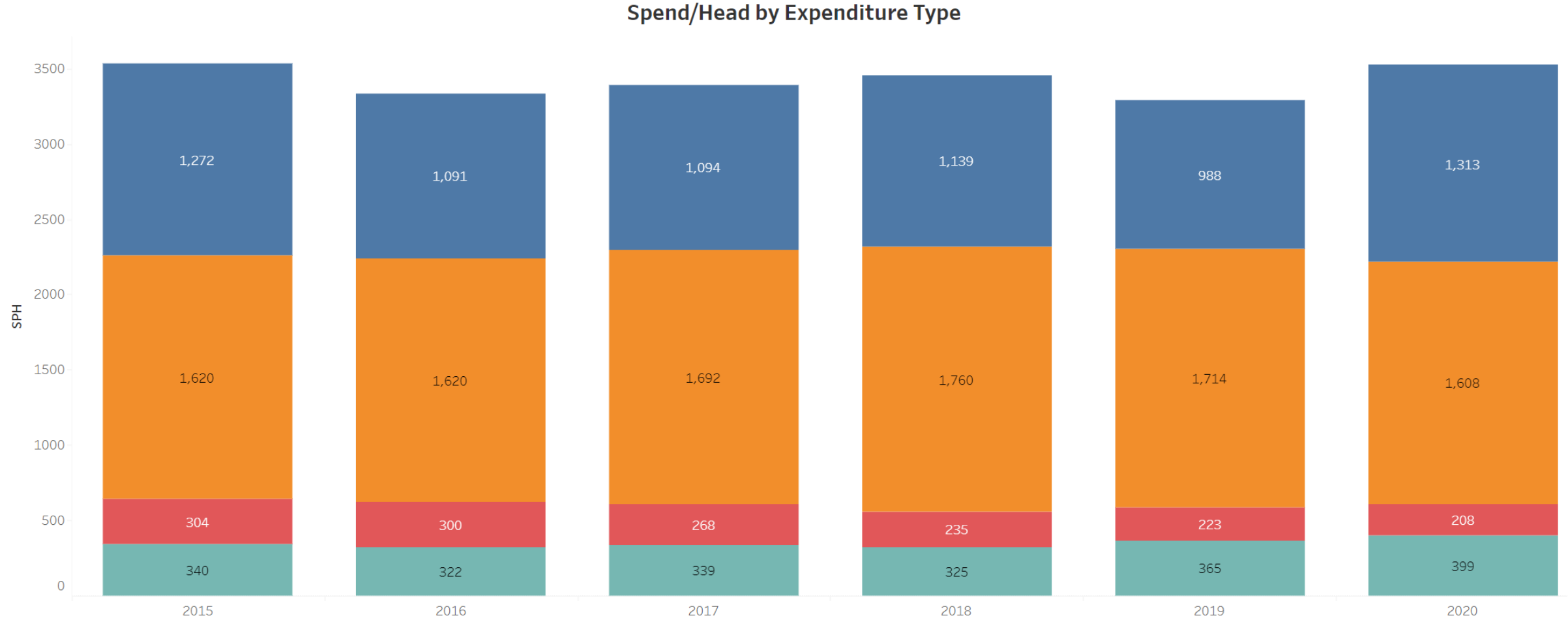
Student finance

- Augar proposed that the max maintenance loan this Sept (England, away from home, outside London) be £10,688 (NMW)
- Instead it will be £9,706 — an increase of just 2.3% on this year (an old Q1 23 OBR forecast)
- OBR says inflation will hit 8.7% in Q4
- Also DSA, PG loans - all only going up by 2.3%
- Plus £25k family income threshold frozen absolutely
- No entitlement to £150 energy bills rebate
- Nations impacts?

Institutional support

Description

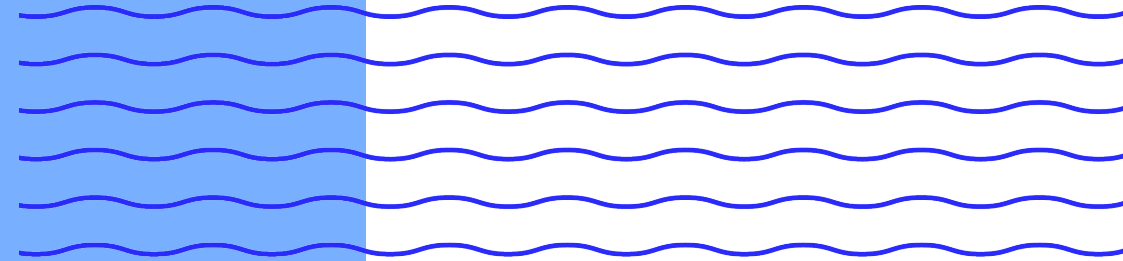
- Accommodation discounts
- Cash
- Near Cash
- Other



End of term report 2021-22:

Palace of Westminster

THIRD CLASS HONOURS



The Parliamentary Session

11 May 2021
State Opening

10 May 2022
State Opening




Advanced Research and Invention Agency Act 2022

Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Sessions 2019-21, 2021-22




 Royal Assent

Skills and Post-16 Education Bill [HL]

Government Bill

Originated in the House of Lords, Session 2021-22

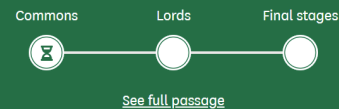



 Consideration of amendments

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

Government Bill

Originated in the House of Commons, Session 2021-22








 Report stage

Lifelong Learning Bill?






Government Bill


Originated in ?, Session 2022-23



 **Bill started in the House of Commons**

-  1st reading
-  2nd reading
-  Committee stage
-  Report stage
-  3rd reading

 **Bill in the House of Lords**

-  1st reading
-  2nd reading
-  Committee stage
-  Report stage
-  3rd reading

 **Final stages**

-  Consideration of amendments
-  Royal Assent



Advanced Research and Invention Agency Act 2022

- Originally carried over from the 2019-21 session
- Passed largely unamended (some government tweaks around devolved consent)
- Concerns were around detail of ministerial direction, sunset clause
- Agency was due to start in this session, currently missing a Chair and Chief Executive



Dominic Cummings, Blogger

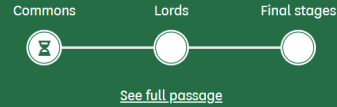


Peter Highnam, Deputy Director,
DARPA



Skills and Post-16 Education Bill

- Introduced 2021 Queen’s Speech
- Was originally supposed to operationalise LLE (didn’t) and LSIPs (does)
- Includes measures on *Essay Mills*, OfS absolute benchmarks, *OfS defamation*
- Currently in “ping-pong” – point of difference is on a reprieve for BTECs
- Will almost certainly pass this session



Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

- Introduced 2021 Queen's Speech
- Based on Iain Mansfield's recommendations for Policy Exchange
- Minor government amendments – adds “constituent institutions”, removes SUs at “constituent institutions”
- Halfon (et al) amendment pending on university overseas funding reporting
- Has been waiting for report stage since 22 September 2021
- Will **not** now pass this session – would require a custom “carry over” motion to continue in next.



(Likely) Lifelong Learning Bill

- Will be introduced 2022 Queen's Speech
- Will operationalise results of consultation on Lifelong Loan Entitlement (eligibility, scope, infrastructure) and Higher Education reform (MERs, SNCs, foundation years?) as needed
- Likely to be a detailed, technical, Bill (like we assumed SP16E Bill would be)
- Alongside new Schools Bill will likely take up most DfE Bill team capacity

Other coming attractions

DfE/ Education Committee	DfE	Cabinet/Government	Education Committee
Section 80 HERA review Standard post-legislative scrutiny of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. Starts with a command paper from DfE, may lead to a committee inquiry.	“Tailored review” of OfS Regulatory effectiveness review of the Office for Students – would be like an expanded version of the recent NAO report looking at all aspects of OfS regulation.	Reshuffle in early summer? Johnson administration completes the “reset” with a new ministerial team. Is Michelle Donelan on her way up? Is Nadhim Zahawi after a “big job”?	Will it get any better? Robert Halfon has been Education Committee Chair since 2017 and will continue to hold it till the next election, unless he gets a government job. A refresh here could improve the committee.

Meanwhile in Wales

Current Stage



(line by line scrutiny)

Tertiary Education and Research Bill

“General principles” (Stage 1) have been approved by Senedd. Points of difference include:

- Learner and worker representation on governing body of CTER
- Ministerial powers to dissolve HEPs
- Provider autonomy
- Strengthening of safeguarding
- Strengthening of Welsh language duty
- More detail on research (new duty?)
- Update on impact assessments and transparency

