

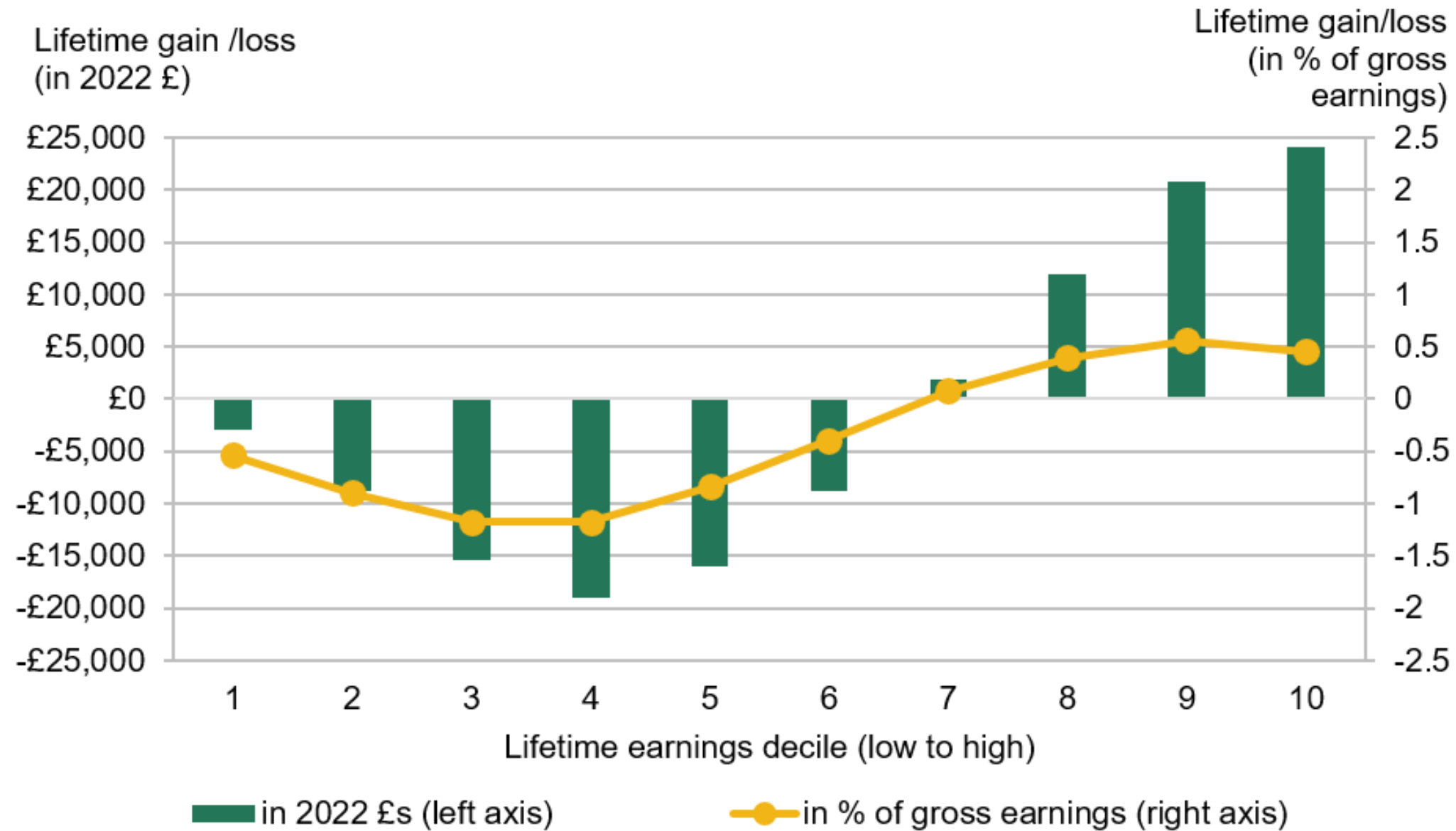
Student finances

- Return of maintenance grants for poorest students – ignored
- Raise family income threshold for deducting from full loan – ignored
- Peg maximum maintenance to National Living Wage – ignored
- London, parents, commuters – ignored
- Student accommodation costs inquiry – ignored
- Part time higher technical given access to maintenance
- Modular level maintenance – downgraded to a consultation option
- National scholarship scheme

Graduate finances

- Fees frozen so reduction in principal in real terms
- Current borrowers repayment threshold frozen, and when rises again will do so by RPI not earnings
- New borrowers threshold to £25,000 until 2026-27 (will then rise by RPI)
- Repayment term extended from 30 years to 40 years
- “Real” interest abolished – now only at RPI

Impacts



Wales?

- England making system more efficient and redistributing from lower/middle to richer as matter of policy
- What is devolved in Wales?
- Amounts loaned or given out in grants – Yes
- Repayment threshold – No
- Interest rate(s)? Loan term?

Offs

Proposed changes to the TEF and minimum outcomes regulation

JIM DICKINSON, WONKHE



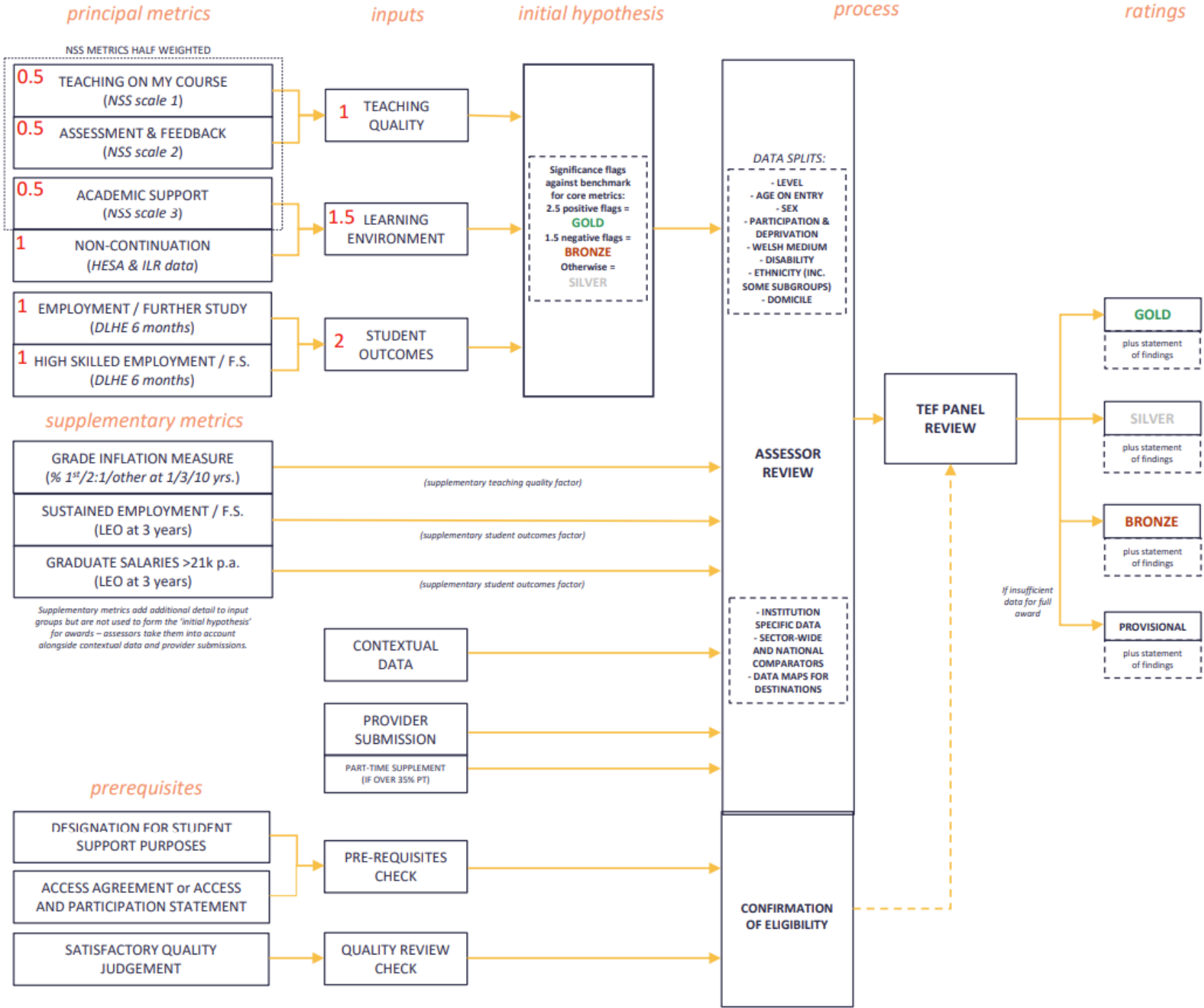
WONKHE

Minimums and maximums

- Two major (sets) of consultations
- The first concerns the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) which in England is compulsory but that Nations providers usually take part in.
- The second concerns B3: Student Outcomes which is England only (but likely to have long term implications on nations)



The machine



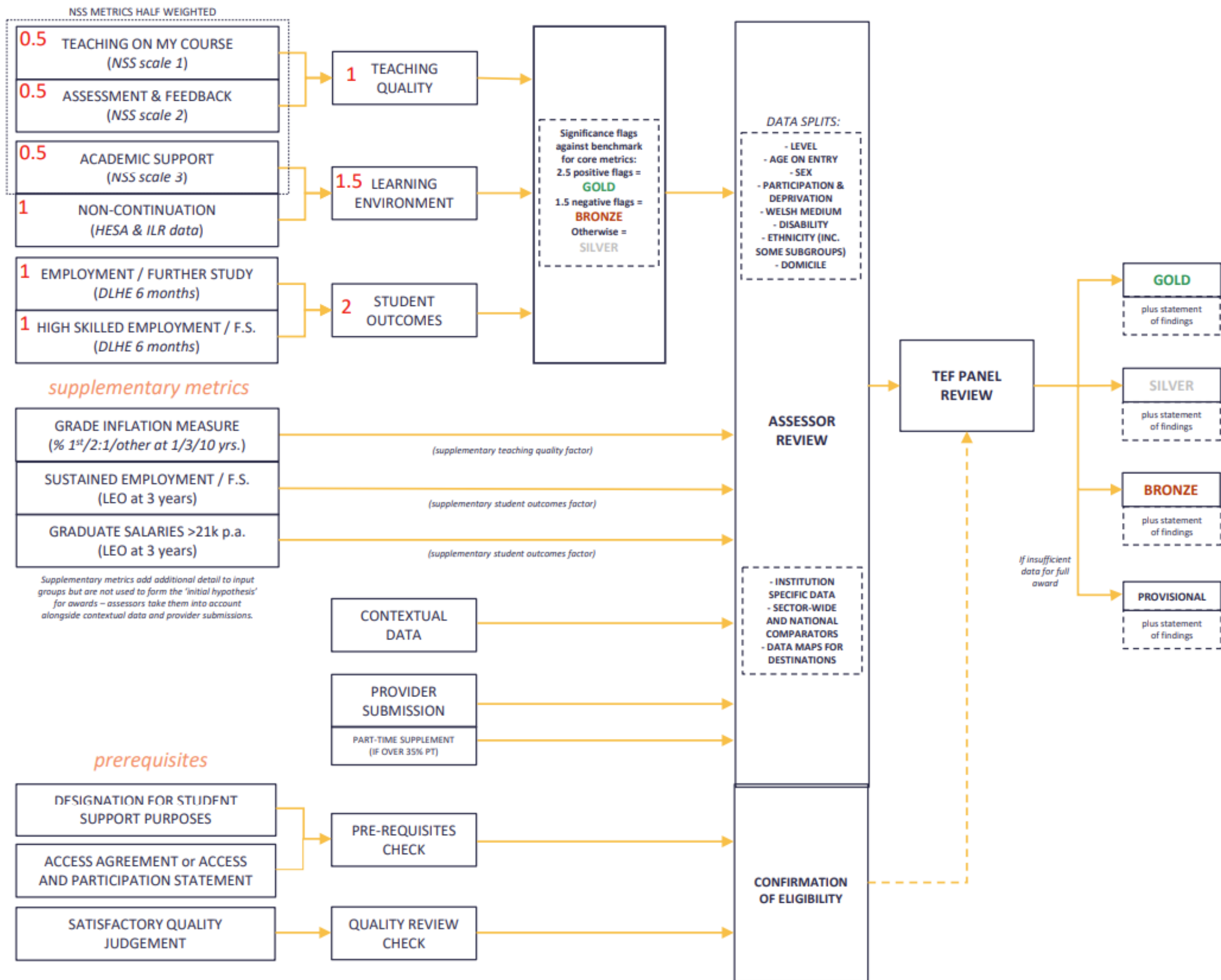
principal metrics

inputs

initial hypothesis

process

ratings



Review!

- During the passage of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA2017) members of the House of Lords were particularly concerned about the TEF as – effectively – a government mandated ranking.
- There were worries about linking it to fee levels. The statutory review was added to the Bill in order to placate the Lords.
- Section 26 provided for an independent review of a “section 25” scheme (basically TEF) within a year of the Act becoming Law.
- Dame Shirley Pearce was the reviewer, her report was submitted in August 2019 and published in January 2021.
- It’s a fantastic report. It convinced the government not to continue with plans to run TEF at subject level – changed the frequency that TEF will run to every 4-5 years, ditched the award names.
- Though she found that neither employers nor students/applicants take any notice of ratings, the government is still committed to these use cases. Pearce recommended that TEF should become a means to identify, celebrate, and learn from high quality teaching.
- She also sought to see TEF make more use of qualitative data alongside metrics, noting the statistical weakness of TEF (there’s a parallel, and also excellent, ONS review that informed the report



**Student
experience
aspect
rating**

No rating

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Student outcomes aspect rating

No rating

Bronze

Silver

Gold

Overall rating

No rating

No rating or Bronze

Bronze

Bronze or Silver

No rating
or Bronze

Bronze
or Silver

Silver

Silver or
Gold

Silver or
Gold

Gold

Scales in use

- a. The teaching on my course.
- b. Assessment and feedback.
- c. Academic support.
- d. Learning resources.
- e. Student voice.

Student voice

- Student members of TEF panels
- Student input into the narrative submission
- Use of student opinion in the NSS



The student submission

- In QAA processes of old (England) and to some extent now (elsewhere) opportunities to submit separate and independent submission
 - Leverage over process of making that a good process
 - Leverage over issues raised in that report
- See also student submissions into Access and Participation evaluation

Next steps

- There's an official chance for SUs to respond to these proposals until 17 March 2022.
- From there in theory the timeline is as follows:
 - August 2022: OfS appoints TEF panel
 - Early September 2022: The provider and student submission window opens: OfS publishes guidance on submissions and assessment; OfS publishes TEF indicators
 - Mid November 2022: Submission window closes
 - Late November 2022 to March 2023: TEF panel carries out the assessments
 - April to May 2023: Providers notified of the panel's provisional decisions about their ratings ; Opportunity for providers to make representations
 - May 2023: Outcomes published for providers that do not make representations





'Mickey Mouse' university courses could have student loans removed

Programmes with high drop-out rates and low levels of graduate employment will be under scrutiny

By Camilla Turner, EDUCATION EDITOR

15 January 2022 • 8:08pm

Universities are facing a crackdown on “Mickey Mouse” degrees as the watchdog threatens to withdraw student loan funding from [low-quality courses](#).

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The higher education regulator had pledged to take a more “robust” approach to quality assurance, which will include launching investigations where bad practice is reported.

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The regulator will publish proposals this week which set out the series of “minimum requirements” they expect degree courses to meet in terms of student outcomes.

If courses are deemed to consistently fall below these they could be barred from receiving student loan funding which would most likely render them financially unviable.

WONKHE

Tuesday 17 November 2020

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Celia Walden
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of the sexes
demeans
them
and us

The Daily Telegraph

Lockdown looms over Christmas

England could remain shut beyond Dec 2 as effect on virus cases is not yet clear

By Gordon Rayner POLITICAL EDITOR

absolutely hope to be able to replace the national lockdown with a tiered system.” The Prime Minister’s spokesman earlier took a more positive stance, saying: “Those measures will be coming to an end on Dec 2. They will expire in law. We are committed to setting out next week what the replacement regime will be.” Mr Hancock refused to say whether lockdown would simply be “rebranded”. But Dr Susan Hopkins, chief medical adviser to NHS testing, said even if lockdown ended in England, a tougher tier system would be likely to replace it. She said that while Tier 3 and “Tier 3 plus” in the North West had reduced cases, Tier 2 had done “not so well” and “we saw very little effect from Tier 1.” Another 21,363 people tested positive for the virus yesterday. There were 14,915 Covid patients in hospital, up nearly 2,000 in a week, and 215 deaths were reported, taking the daily average to 443, up from 322 a week ago.

Up to 70 Tory MPs have joined the newly formed Covid Research Group to pressure the Government into finding alternatives to lockdowns to safeguard the economy. Mark Harper, chairman of the group, said: “It’s time for a new way to live with the virus.”

Although the rebels are likely to vote against extending lockdown, Labour would almost certainly support it. It came as Nicola Sturgeon confirmed she was “likely” to announce today a return to near-full lockdown for swathes of Scotland to pave the way for easing the strict Christmas. The First Minister will this afternoon disclose which council areas will be placed for a limited period in Level 4, the highest tier of restrictions, with western Scotland expected to be targeted.

In Germany Angela Merkel was facing a coronavirus rebellion as regional leaders tore up her proposals for new lockdown restrictions. And Mr Johnson’s self-isolation meant he would be unable to hold face-to-face meetings with EU leaders as Brexit trade talks entered their most crucial phase, resorting instead to video conference calls.

Hancock won’t rule out mandatory vaccine

By Harry Yorke and Laura Donnelly

MATT HANCOCK has refused to rule out making a coronavirus vaccine mandatory, suggesting ministers could consider it if initial take-up was lower than expected. The Health Secretary yesterday insisted the Government was not “proposing” compulsory vaccination, pointing out that a number of people would be unable to take it for medical reasons. But when asked whether he could rule it out in future, Mr Hancock said he had learnt “not to rule things out” during the pandemic, adding: “We have to watch what happens and you have to make judgments accordingly.” Asked later at a Downing Street press conference whether other candidates – including Pfizer’s – expected to be available more quickly in the UK, he said the Government had secured five million doses,

enough for 2.5 million people to receive the required two doses.

Vaccines are not mandatory in the UK, with official guidance stating that individuals must be allowed to make an informed choice. However, there is concern that anti-vaxxers – who are spreading unfounded claims about the safety of Covid-19 vaccine – candidates on social media – could undermine efforts to encourage widespread inoculation. Meanwhile, research by YouGov yesterday suggested that while 67 per cent of Britons were likely to take the Pfizer vaccine, one in five respondents was unlikely to and 12 per cent were unsure. Mr Hancock also hit out at hundreds of health and care staff who had formed a group opposed to vaccinations on social media, describing it as “entirely inappropriate”.

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NEWS BRIEFING

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£500,000 fines for ‘Mickey Mouse’ courses

Universities that run “Mickey Mouse” degree courses will be fined up to £500,000, under plans by the watchdog to “stamp out” bad practice. The OfS for Students is to crack down on degrees with high student dropout and low graduate employment rates, as well as those with significant grade inflation. Under proposed reforms, the OfS could investigate university departments and faculties if there is evidence that individual courses are not up to scratch.

Page 4

NEWS

‘Blue wall’ protests against petrol car ban

Voters in new Conservative “blue wall” seats think a ban on diesel and petrol cars would be unfair, according to a survey. Climate change concerns hit 88 per cent among the group with the highest proportion of northern Leave voters, and those who swung from Labour to the Tories last year. But 70 per cent said a petrol and diesel car ban would add extra cost to daily life. The Government is expected this week to bring forward the date to phase out new petrol and diesel cars to 2030.

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BUSINESS

Timing of US job data release questioned

Moderna, the US drugmaker, released crucial data on the Covid vaccine under embargo before the results were made public, prompting calls for new rules over how trial information is announced in the market. It briefed journalists on data showing its job is almost 95 per cent effective against coronavirus, almost an hour before publishing the details – with a midday embargo meaning this lifted before US trading opened. There is no suggestion Moderna broke any rules.

Business page 1

SPORT

Stewart leads drive to knight Hamilton

Sir Jackie Stewart last night led calls for Lewis Hamilton to be knighted after he sealed a record-equalling seventh Formula One world title. Sir Jackie told *The Daily Telegraph* there was “no question” Hamilton deserved to join him in becoming only the second world champion to receive the honour. It may require Boris Johnson to intervene, as the deadline for nominations has passed. Otherwise, Hamilton has no time to wait until next year or even until he retires.

Sport page 1

Bring in rapid tests to end self-isolation, ministers told

By Laura Donnelly and Gordon Rayner

SCIENTISTS and MPs are calling for urgent changes to isolation rules, saying the confinement of Boris Johnson demonstrates the folly of the UK’s testing regime.

A total of 12 MPs, including the Prime Minister, are now self-isolating after coming into contact with Lee Anderson, the Tory MP. Six of them, including Mr Johnson, came into contact with him during a meeting in Downing Street last week, and a further six came into contact with him elsewhere, including in Parliament.

Last night, scientists said the situation showed that the system was not “fit for purpose” and it would be far more sensible to offer rapid tests to those at risk of exposure.

They said Mr Johnson, who was treated for Covid-19 in hospital in April, was extremely unlikely to contract

Boris Johnson told the nation via a Twitter video that he had been instructed to self-isolate by NHS test and trace

the virus again and even less likely to transmit it. None the less, rapid tests should be used for anyone at risk, allowing the vast majority of those exposed to a positive Covid case to be freed far more quickly, they said.

They said the situation demonstrated the urgent need to introduce rapid testing for contacts of positive Covid cases. Prof Tim Peeto, professor of medicine at Oxford University, said: “There is a simple way to take a belt-and-braces approach – we should be operating a system which allows the Prime Minister to take a rapid test and be back in Parliament the next day.”

“The current system simply hasn’t adapted to the knowledge that we have got. We need to be using these tests to let people out of quarantine far more quickly.”

Prof Peeto led trials by Oxford University and Public Health England which last week found that the instant tests known as lateral flow tests – identified more than 77 per cent of people infected with Covid. Crucially, they identified 95 per cent of those with a high viral load, meaning they were at their most infectious.

Prof Peeto said those at risk of Covid, because of close contact with an infected person, should be given the 45

Continued on Page 6

Queen ‘didn’t mind’ Obama protocol breach

By Ben Riley-Smith US EDITOR

BARACK OBAMA has waved away an old row about whether the first lady broke royal protocol by placing a hand on the Queen’s shoulder on a state visit, writing in his new memoirs that Her Majesty “didn’t seem to mind”.

The incident took place when the Obamas visited Britain alongside other world leaders for a G20 summit in April 2009. The former US president discusses the incident in his book *A Promised Land*, which is published today.

Mr Obama, who then had only been in the White House for three months, recalls how Michelle Obama caused “her own lot of controversy” at the reception in Buckingham Palace.

“She was photographed with her hand resting on Her Majesty’s shoulder – an apparent breach of royal custom – protocol,” Mr Obama writes,

‘I hope you enjoy sleeping on the couch when you get home. The White House has plenty to choose from!’

adding: “Although the Queen didn’t seem to mind, slipping her arm around Michelle in return.”

Mr Obama also describes how concerned his wife had been with what to wear for their audience with the Queen, and a little matching handbag.

Mr Obama quotes her response too: “And I hope you enjoy sleeping on a couch when you get home. The White House has so many to choose from!”

In the end, Mrs Obama wore a cardigan over her dress, “ensuring Fleet

Street into a horrified tizzy”. The exchange offers an insight into the conversations that happen when a world leader and their other half meet the Queen for the first time. They also show the raised eyebrows that were adopted by the Obamas as the media policed royal protocol.

The story is one of a number linked to Britain that Mr Obama describes in his 718-page memoir, which covers his life up to mid-2011. A second volume, which will include his 2012 election and second term, is in the works.

Throughout the book, Mr Obama gives up colourful descriptions of world leaders, including the two UK prime ministers he worked with while in office: Gordon Brown and David Cameron.

Mr Brown is described as someone who “lacked the purely political gifts of

Continued on Page 4

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NEWS

£500,000 fines for ‘Mickey Mouse’ courses

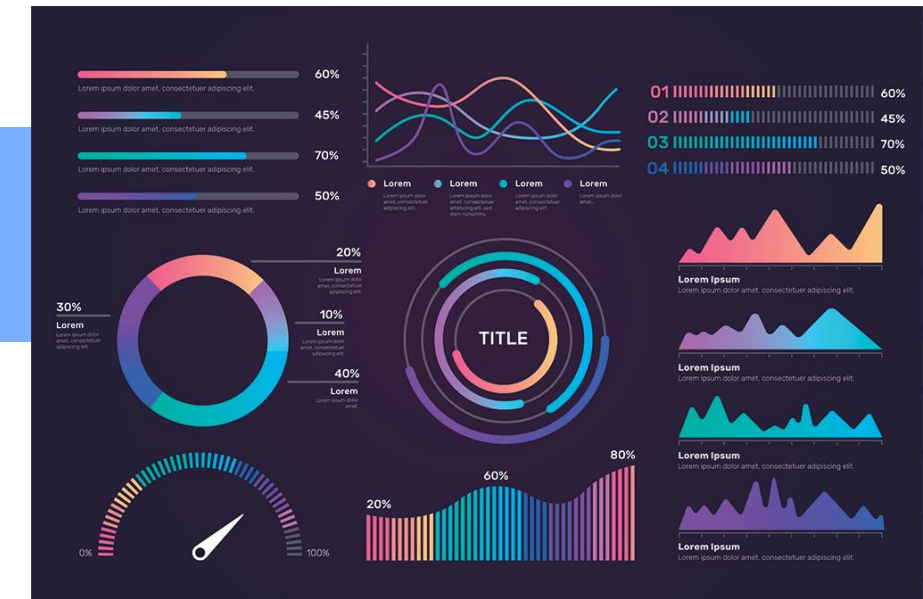
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Page 4

WONKHE

We will get baselines

- **Continuation** rates help it understand whether a provider is recruiting students able to succeed through the early stages of its courses, with the appropriateness of recruitment and student support under the spotlight;
- It says **completion** is similar and provides a look over the whole student lifecycle. This difference in focus means that there will not be a direct, linear, relationship between a provider's continuation rate and its completion rate.
- Meanwhile **progression** tells OfS whether a provider's students have successful student outcomes beyond graduation.



How?

- Performance “in aggregate”, over a “time series” (for the number of years up to a five year period for which indicators could be derived from available)
- Across splits for different demographic groups – broken down by mode (full or part-time) and level of study (for example “other undergraduate”, first degree), as well as by age, participation of local areas (POLAR), English indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), ethnicity, disability, sex and domicile.



New!

Splits by

- Subject level (level 2 of the Common Aggregation Hierarchy is proposed)
- Course type
- Views of a provider's student population
 - Franchise? Awarding?



Blame it on the baseline

- Baseline for each indicator (in each mode and level of study that the provider delivers) and published stats.



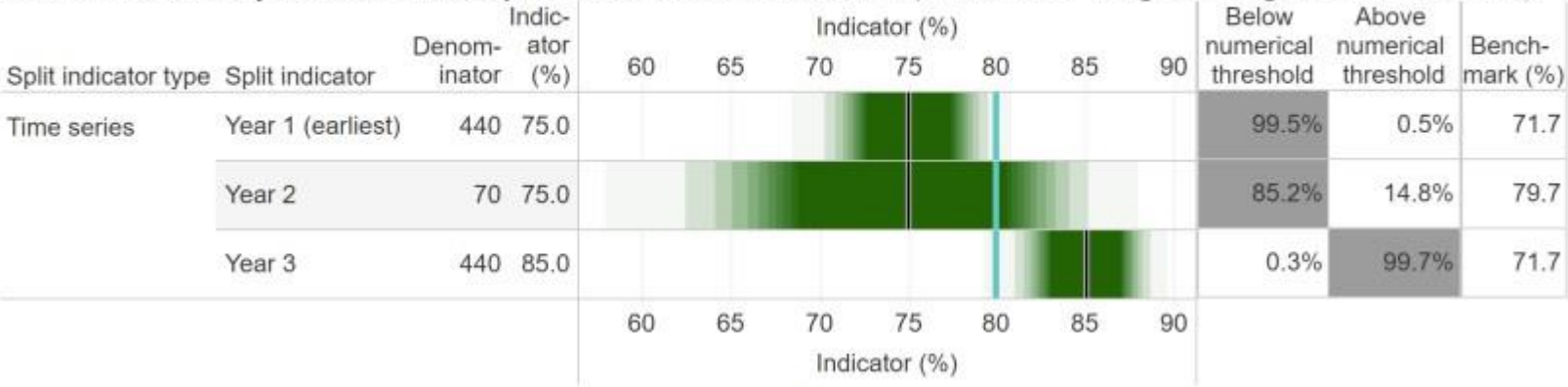
Table 1: Summary of proposed numerical threshold levels

Level and mode of study	Continuation	Completion (cohort tracking)	Completion (composite indicator)	Progression
FT Other UG	75%	65%	65%	45%
FT First Degree	80%	75%	75%	60%
FT UG / PG border	85%	85%	80%	80%
FT PGCE	85%	85%	85%	85%
FT PG Taught Masters	80%	80%	80%	70%
FT PG Other	80%	80%	80%	85%
FT PG Research (PhD)	90%	75%	75%	85%
PT Other UG	55%	55%	55%	65%
PT First Degree	60%	55%	55%	75%
PT UG / PG border	60%	60%	60%	80%
PT PGCE	75%	75%	75%	85%
PT PG Taught Masters	65%	65%	65%	85%
PT PG Other	65%	60%	65%	85%
PT PG Research (PhD)	70%	60%	60%	85%
Apprenticeship – UG	70%	55%	55%	75%
Apprenticeship – PG	80%	80%	80%	80%

Note: 'FT' = 'full-time'; 'PT' = 'part-time'; 'UG' = 'undergraduate'; 'PG' = 'postgraduate'.

Figure F1: Examples of assessing indicators and split indicators

Student and study characteristic split indicators: *Continuation (Other UG, Taught or registered, Full-time)*



Blame

- Baseline level of published

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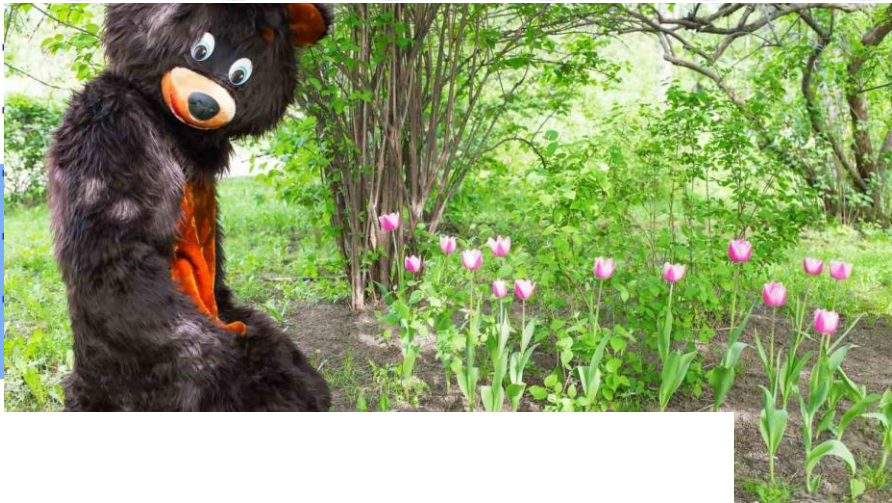


icators

3, Taught or registered, Full-time)

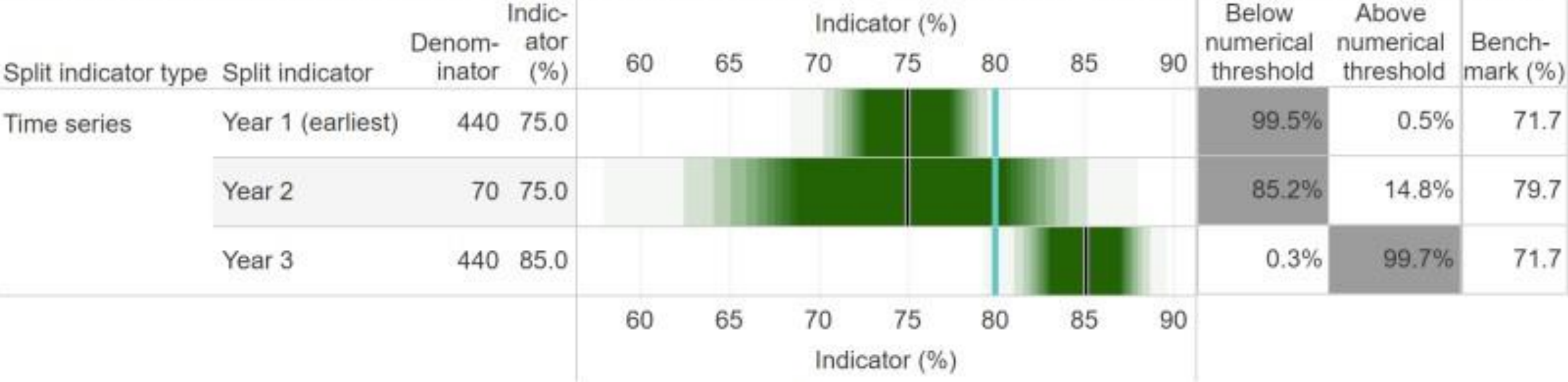
85	90	Below numerical threshold	Above numerical threshold	Benchmark (%)
		99.5%	0.5%	71.7
		85.2%	14.8%	79.7
		0.3%	99.7%	71.7
85	90			

Blame it on the baseline



- Figure F1: Examples of assessing indicators and split indicators

Student and study characteristic split indicators: *Continuation (Other UG, Taught or registered, Full-time)*



PT PG Other	65%	60%	65%	85%
PT PG Research (PhD)	70%	60%	60%	85%
Apprenticeship – UG	70%	55%	55%	75%
Apprenticeship – PG	80%	80%	80%	80%

Note: 'FT' = 'full-time'; 'PT' = 'part-time'; 'UG' = 'undergraduate'; 'PG' = 'postgraduate'.

Then...

- Publish the information via a dashboard on the website
- Explore the possibility of linking the information directly to an individual provider's entry on the register
- Publish sector-wide data analysis on the website, and even
- Consider how to link to the information from Discover Uni to provide a route for interested students to understand the performance of individual providers in more depth.



Looks at data and then

- Contextual factors
- Historical (pandemic or course features – See Norland)
- Future (we've already started to do something about this)
- then Regulation – letters, conditions, fines, exclusion from register



What do you do?

- You can **ignore** it because you reckon you can front out contextual reasons or because it's an outlier that might not be in a big theme this year
- You work to actually **improve** the continuation, completion or progression scores, although there's necessarily a long lead time on making a difference
- You **change the students you recruit** by taking fewer risks on otherwise contextually talented students - focussing on the social backgrounds more likely to stay the course and have the family connections to get a graduate job
- You slowly, quietly, carefully **exit** this provision. "It's not one of our strengths" or whatever, and anyway the costs are high and recruitment is poor and...

If the red light is flashing

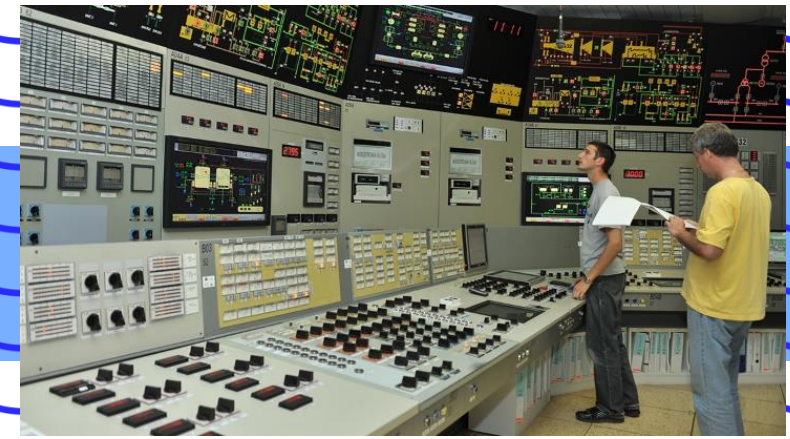
- The provider can offer a justification (that the outcomes are otherwise good for those students in absolute not value added terms)

and or

- The provider has a credible plan to turn around those outcomes

Providers have...

- Draft TEF data (UC, benchmarked, plenty of splits)
- Draft B3 data (UC, PGR, PGT, absolute against proposed baselines, all splits)
- Interaction with SNCs for “low value” courses
- Academic and corporate governance?
- Providers ought to be considering how to respond now, esp in partnership with students and SUs
 - Involved in decision making
 - Why are the scores the way they are?
 - Student protection arrangements
 - SUs as helping to drive improvements (participation associated with improved metrics even when controlling for characteristic)



The background of the top half of the slide is a photograph of a student in a white shirt working on a Samsung laptop. The laptop screen displays a website with several images. To the right of the laptop is a brown leather-bound notebook. A glass with ice and a drink is visible near the laptop. The text 'The UPP Foundation Student Futures Commission' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font on the left side of the image.

The UPP Foundation Student Futures Commission

A solid orange square is located on the left side of the slide, below the main image.

About the Commission