

Wonkhe Live

April 2022

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WHO



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Welcome to Wonkhe Live

Wonkhe Live is a monthly online briefing event exclusively for Wonkhe Pass subscribers and our partners.

Get involved – post in the chat, ask questions, share your thoughts.

The recording and slides will be available after the session

Please share your feedback if there's anything you'd like to see at future Wonkhe Live events: team@wonkhe.com

WONKHE | APRIL 2022

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HOME OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEBATE

The Augar response



Is the new student loan system really fairer?

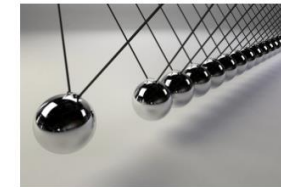
GAVAN CONLON | ANALYSIS | 25/02/22



In the Augar response ministers are trying for a third way between capping opportunity or letting the HE market run amok

The government's Augar response and HE reform proposals are more equivocal than the public narrative would suggest. Debbie McVitty is your tour guide

DEBBIE MCVITTY | POLICY WATCH | 24/02/22



The same but different – devolution and the response to Augar

LUCY HUNTER BLACKBURN | COMMENT | 25/02/22



The government has missed an opportunity to alleviate the impacts of debt

CLAIRE CALLENDER | COMMENT | 25/02/22



PODCAST: Augar response special

TEAM WONKHE | PODCASTS | 24/02/22

FREE WEEKLY

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Start the week with our free agenda-setting briefing with everything you need to know about what's going on in UK higher education.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ The biggest changes you need to know about
- ✓ In-depth commentary and analysis
- ✓ What's happened, and what happens next
- ✓ A briefing designed for both the biggest experts and the most casual of observers

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Agenda

O1 WELCOME AND UPDATE FROM TEAM WONKHE

Jim Dickinson, Associate Editor

O2 UKRAINE

UUKi on the latest on the conflict and the UK HE response

O3 BLAIR INSTUTUTE

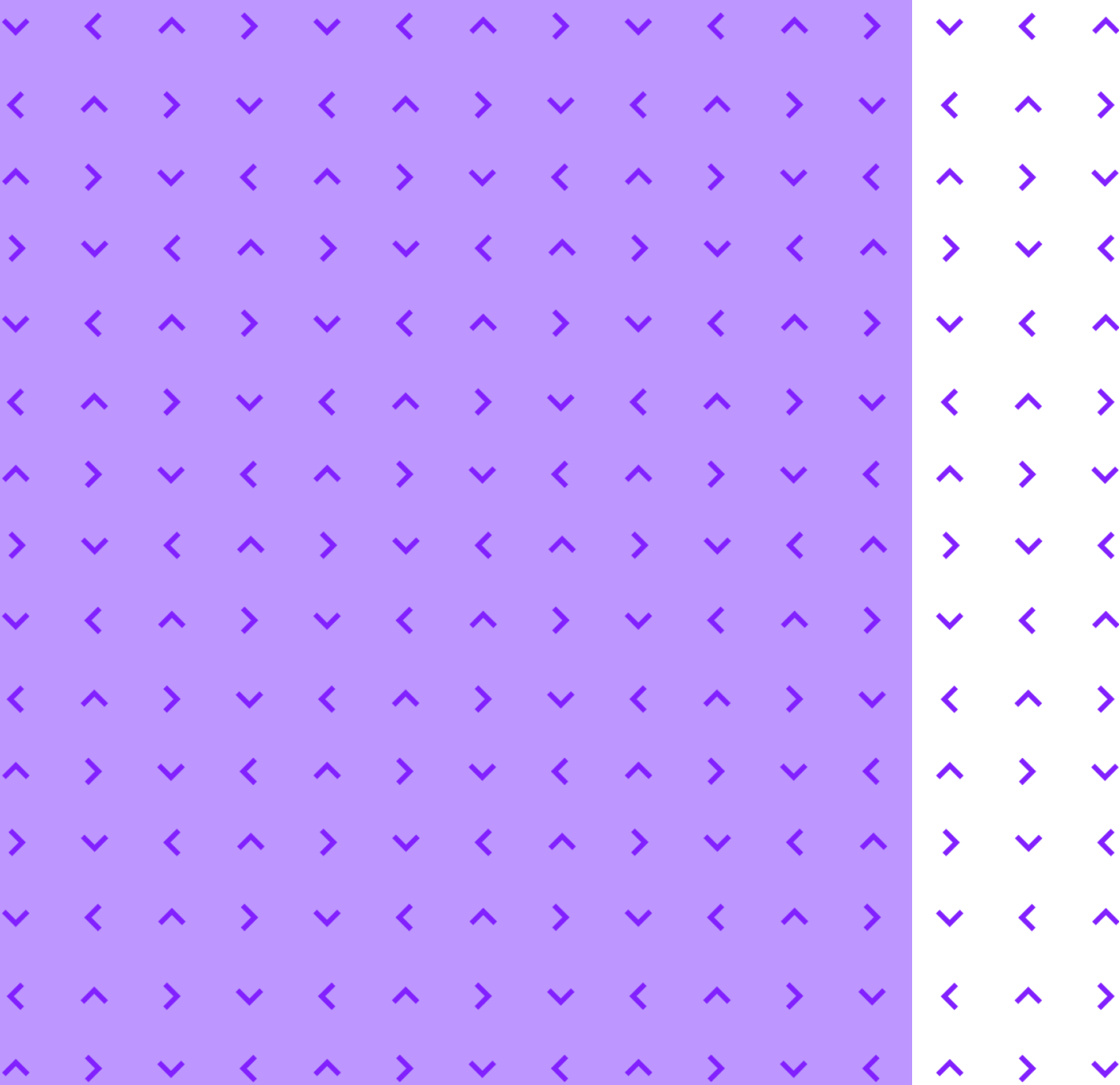
The debate about expansion hots up via Tony Blair and the IFS

O4 REGULATORY PRIORITIES

What is government telling OfS to do this week?

O5 FISCAL DRAG

Money money money must be funny



Policy headlines



REGULATION PRIORITIES

Another letter from ministers to OfS

UCU

Announcement of reballot results and results of HESC 1

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Revisions to reflect new priorities

SPIKING

Home affairs select committee report

TONTY RETURNS

University expansion in the next decade

FREE SPEECH

Carry over motion and speech from MD

ANTISEMITISM

John Mann, NUS Conference, NUS Inquiry

ALRA CLOSURE

What does this tell us about student protection?

LOANS

IFS and an interest rate kerfuffle



It's your letters

- A week after strategy publication, new priorities letter

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education



Rt. Hon. Michelle Donelan M
Minister of State for Higher and Further Education

It's your letters

Skills and levelling up

- OfS expected to continue to co-operate in the design and delivery of an appropriate regulatory regime for the Lifelong Loan Entitlement
- Modular metrics (!)
- Cold spots
- Technical education and degree apprenticeships via APP revisions (P4)

Quality and standards

- Hurry up, inc TEF!
- In person teaching, grammar and spelling
- Prioritisation of B3 investigations – on site inspections (10-15 a year)

B3 investigations...

- larger providers with university title which are below proposed numerical thresholds either for the whole provider, or multiple subject areas; and
- a set of investigations focused on a major subject grouping with large numbers of students and high variation in outcomes, such as computer science or law, with the intention to drive up the quality of those courses across the sector as a whole; and
- providers where OfS has long-standing concerns about quality which are confirmed or strengthened by numerical data on student outcomes

It's your letters

Access and Participation

- Crack on!
- Data on completion rates and highly skilled employment or further study in course advertisements will become a requirement from the next admissions cycle, voluntary at first

Antisemitism

- Summit, priority

Risk based regulation and reducing bureaucracy

- More progress, no savings necessary

Freedom of speech and academic freedom

- Prepare for powers

Preventing and addressing harassment and sexual misconduct

- Statement of expectations will get teeth

It's your letters

Admissions

- Take the pressure off

Strategic Priorities Grant

- £4m for Ukraine
- High cost subjects get a £32m increase
- £8m for L4 and L5
- £5m increase for small and specialist
- Hardship – assessment and discontinue.
- Student premium “protected”
- £10m lopped off from UniConnect



Graduates face 'eye-watering' 12% interest rate on student loans

Graduates earning £27,295 or less will see their interest rates soar from the current 1.5% rate to 9%, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

By Alexa Phillips, news reporter

🕒 Wednesday 13 April 2022 15:17, UK

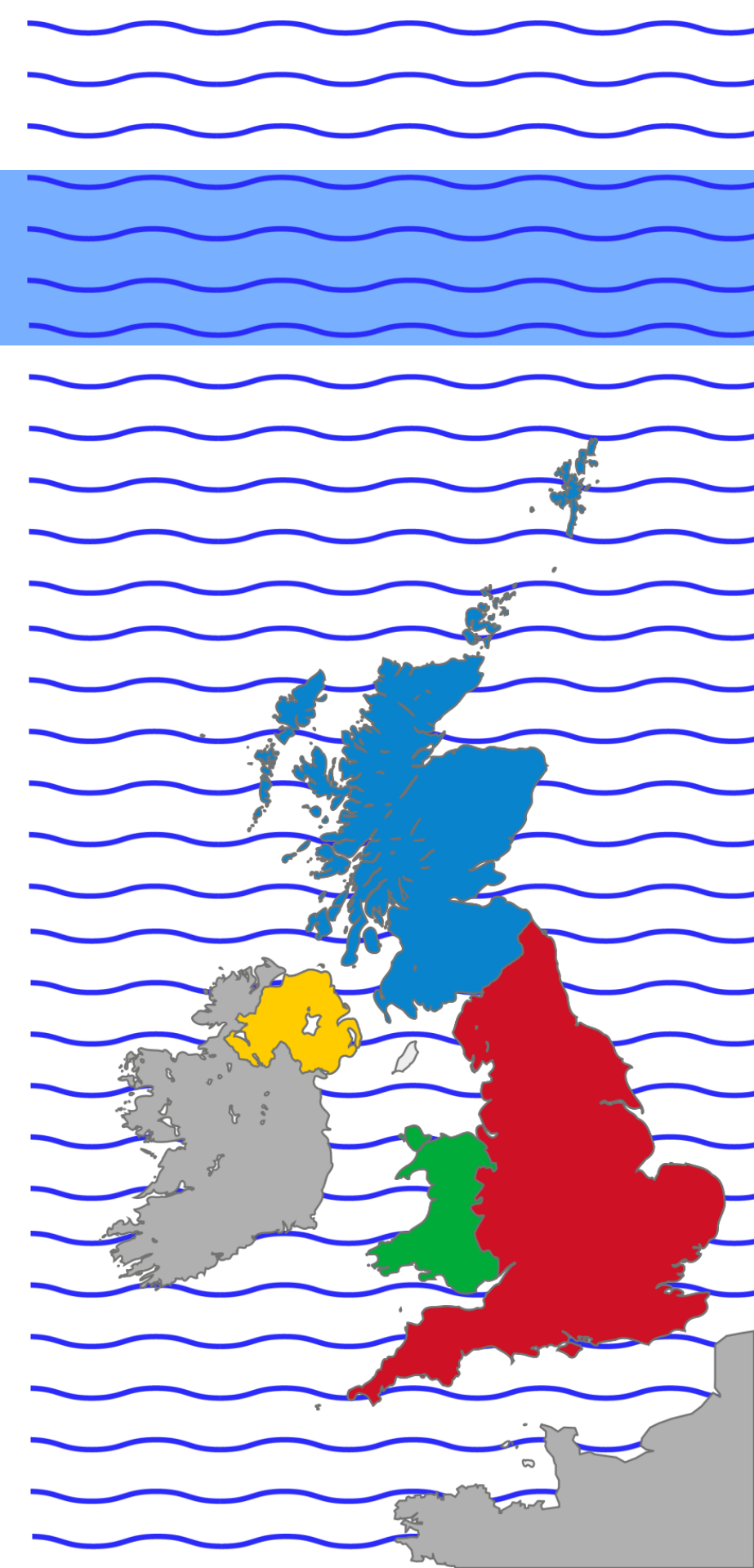
Recipient	Amount
Household income £16,000 or less	£1300
Household income £16,001 – £20,000 and from POLAR 1 postcode	£800
Care leavers and estranged students	£2500

Figure 9: Bursaries for new entrants 2020/21 to 2024/25.

- Judged as what was needed (no more) to make the difference
- 16k is now higher – earnings growth
- £1,300 worth less – inflation rising faster
- Costs of support outside of financial support increasing too, and support from DfE/OfS declining (frozen but volume + inflation)
- Triple whammy!

What a drag

- England: maintenance (and PCG) 2.3% and thresholds unchanged
- Wales: No threshold, NLW link (£1,000) but other bits 2.2%
- Scotland: 4.5% PIYP but still far behind recommendation or Eng/Wales
- Northern Ireland: No increase at all, thresholds frozen



Thank you

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