

# Ten things that are happening

October 2022



# Cost of living

- How to use the OIA note on cost of living to accelerate efforts to support students
- See also LB, Durham, Manchester, MillionPlus research and SUs briefing
- Increase in in year drop out (SLC)
- Energy bills support scheme - All-inclusive bills in HMOs and institutional accommodation
- Stipends v Health
- Part-time work
- Food insecurity and food banks
- Uprating for earnings? (Wales v England)



# B3 and TEF Dashboards

- Metrics and splits, plus thresholds for B3 now published (Continuation, Completion, Progression)
- TEF Metrics and splits, plus performance against benchmark now published (Continuation, Completion, Progression PLUS Teaching, A&F, Learning Support, Resources, Voice)
- Institutional profile also published
- Formal guidance on the Student Submission now out see webinar and briefing(s)





# Housing shortage

- Major student cities across the world impacted
- Post-Covid living
- Landlords selling up as interest rates increase
- (Regulation as a red herring)
- PGT expansion plus Graduate Route visa
- Strategy for the city?
- Figures on types of housing by provider



# New standards for rented homes

- New housing minister former landlord (!)
- Consultation on now on DHS
- Decent homes standard consultation unlikely to be ditched
- Decent homes:
  - Meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing
  - Is in a reasonable state of repair
  - Has reasonable facilities and services; and
  - Provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort
- Hazards, repairs, facilities, energy, enforcement



# Free speech bill

- Returns to the Lords at the end of October
- Amendments rolling in now (nothing on SUs so far)
- Concerted attempt to remove the Tort
- Complaints overlap still unclear





# University finances

## Unit of resource freeze plus inflation

- Energy fix?
- Demand smoothing – increases in module and class sizes and reduction in module choice
- Pathway closure – killing off or merging/collapsing modules
- International PGT recruitment
- New briefing up on expansion (sustainable?)



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# International students

- PG arrivals with dependents set to be targeted (possibly prior to transfer to graduate route)
- Braverman:

We've also got a very high number of students coming into this country and we've got a really high number of dependents.

So students are coming on their student visa, but they're bringing in family members who can piggyback onto their student visa.

Those people are coming here, they're not necessarily working or they're working in low skilled jobs, and they're not contributing to growing our economy."

We want people with high skills, we want people with tech qualifications...What we don't want is a very steady stream of cheap foreign labour.

- Modern slavery? Rights at work.
- Hardship and recourse to public funds
- Currency fluctuation
- Outward migration (Turing and Taith)





# Access and participation

New approach from John Blake (former OUSU President...)

- “Risks” of not delivering quality of opportunity
- National risk register (due regard to...)
- Local APP will have to assess risks and propose mitigations
- Role of SUs in
  - Risk identification
  - Risk mitigation
  - Plan monitoring
- Wider equality duties



# Sexual violence

Statement of expectations due any day now

- Spiking guidance out (awaiting decision on licensing from Home Office)
- NDAs pledge continues (When is an NDA not an NDA)
- New legal guidance from Universities UK out (worth SUs reviewing)
- Prevalence and evidence gathering?



# OIA Good Practice Framework

Framework under review. Includes:

- “Biased” decision making
- New principles
- Complaints about students’ unions
- Complaints about staff and/or students
- Group complaints
- Confidentiality and sharing outcomes



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# Student suicide

- Bristol will appeal in the Abrahart case so learning delayed
- Parents have launched campaign to establish a formal “duty of care”
- UUK have guidance out on:
  - Contacting family and other loved ones in event of serious issue (but what counts as serious issue and whose job to notice?)
  - Before, during and return from placements



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