

November 2022 in HE politics

A series of five horizontal, wavy blue lines that extend from the right side of the word 'politics' across the white background of the slide.

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WONKHE



Department for Education



GILLIAN KEEGAN
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EDUCATION



ROBERT HALFON
MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILLS,
APPRENTICESHIPS, AND HIGHER
EDUCATION

Responsibilities include:
HE quality and reform
LLE
Office for Students
Student Experience/WP
International education

Responsibilities include:
Student finance/SLC
Departmental data
Counter-extremism



BARONESS BARRAN
PARLIAMENTARY
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR
THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND
STUDENT FINANCE



CLAIRE COUTINHO
PARLIAMENTARY
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
WELLBEING

Responsibilities include:
Freedom of Speech



GRANT SHAPPS
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
BUSINESS, ENERGY, AND
INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY



NUSRAT GHANI
MINISTER OF STATE FOR
SCIENCE AND INVESTMENT
SECURITY



GEORGE FREEMAN
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ?

Responsibilities include:
Science and research
Horizon Europe
R&D people and culture
Life sciences
Supporting SoS on UKRI/ARIA

Responsibilities include:
TBC

Autumn Statement, 2022

Thursday 17 November, probably around 11ish?

- Fairly bleak prognosis – Jeremy Hunt is looking for around £60bn
- Tax rises, spending cuts, efficiency savings are on the table
- Departments have been asked to look for cuts of c10 per cent
- Treasury was looking at 104 proposals from across government
- A *lot* of expectation management going on

Higher education

- R&D – 2.4% GDP target has been met (technically)
- Student loans – government's largest single use of AME capital
- LLE – has potential to be very expensive
- Efficiencies – UKRI certainly in the frame, but what about OfS?
- Other measures (VAT? NI?) would also have an impact on HE



Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

Cleared Lords Committee stage on 14 November

Serious cross-party disquiet on:

- Statutory tort (Clause 4)
- Financial risks and “chilling effect”
- Impact of overseas funding measures on Sus
- The need for the bill, overall

Government notes

- Concerns over the tort are “taken seriously”
- Attempts will be made to address these before Report
- Still holding the existing line on other aspects of the bill

Next steps

- Report stage will be in around two weeks
- Government amendments or votes very likely
- Case for the bill feels weaker in current economic climate
- Notable that a junior minister (not Halfon) has responsibility

