

WONKHE

Where does HE policy come from?

JULY 2026

MICHAEL SALMON

Big, serious policymaking

The Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Foundation year cuts

Maintenance grants

Minimum entry requirements

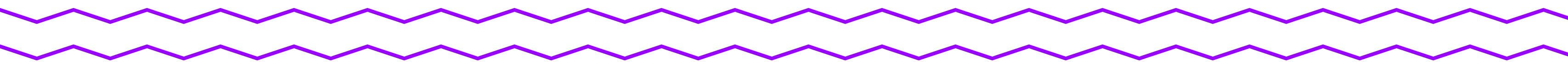
Recruitment limits for
“poor quality” courses

Independent panel report to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding

May 2019



The “Augar review”



Battle of ideas

PRIMEVAL SOUP

Think tanks
Press coverage
Backbench MPs
Academic debate

LEGISLATION



Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023

CHAPTER 16

IMPLEMENTATION

Press release

Government reaffirms commitment to Free Speech in universities

Key provisions from the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023 will be brought into force, whilst burdensome provisions will be scrapped.

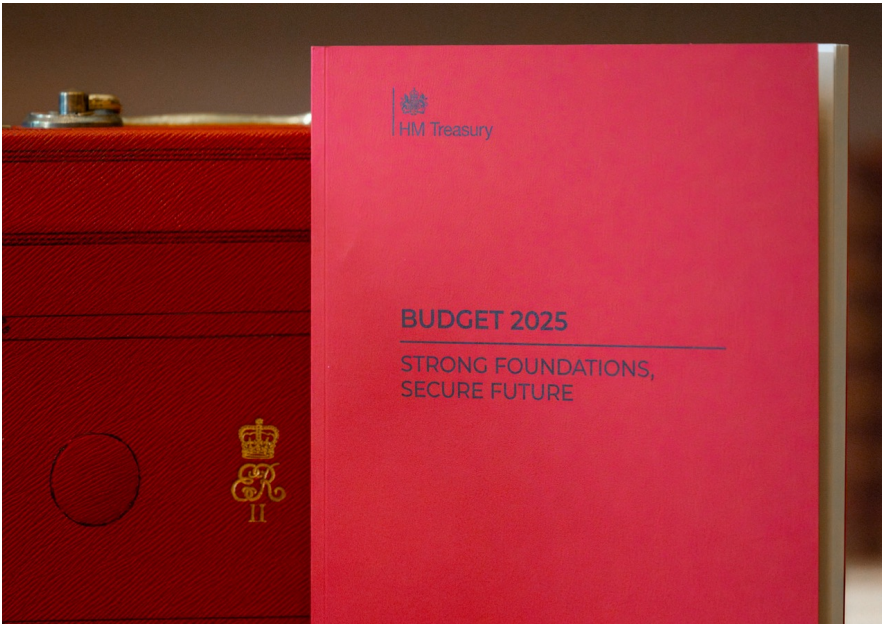
FURTHER BATTLES

NEWS

Students excluded from university free speech complaints system



The domino effect



END THE GRADUATE RIP-OFF
‘Working class students like me pay the most to go to university’

The ITV political correspondent Shehab Khan says loans mean that his degree will cost him twice as much as his classmates’ whose parents paid fees upfront



Streeting calls for 'national debate' on student loan system in wake of graduate fury

The Health Secretary said a serious discussion is needed about the current student loan repayment system.

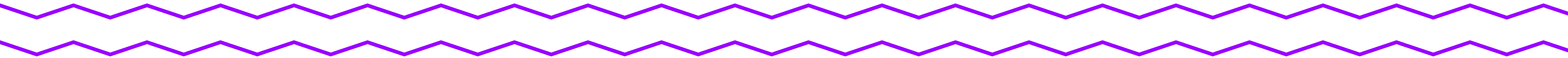


Student loans: new inquiry on repayment terms and the taxation of graduates launches

12 March 2026



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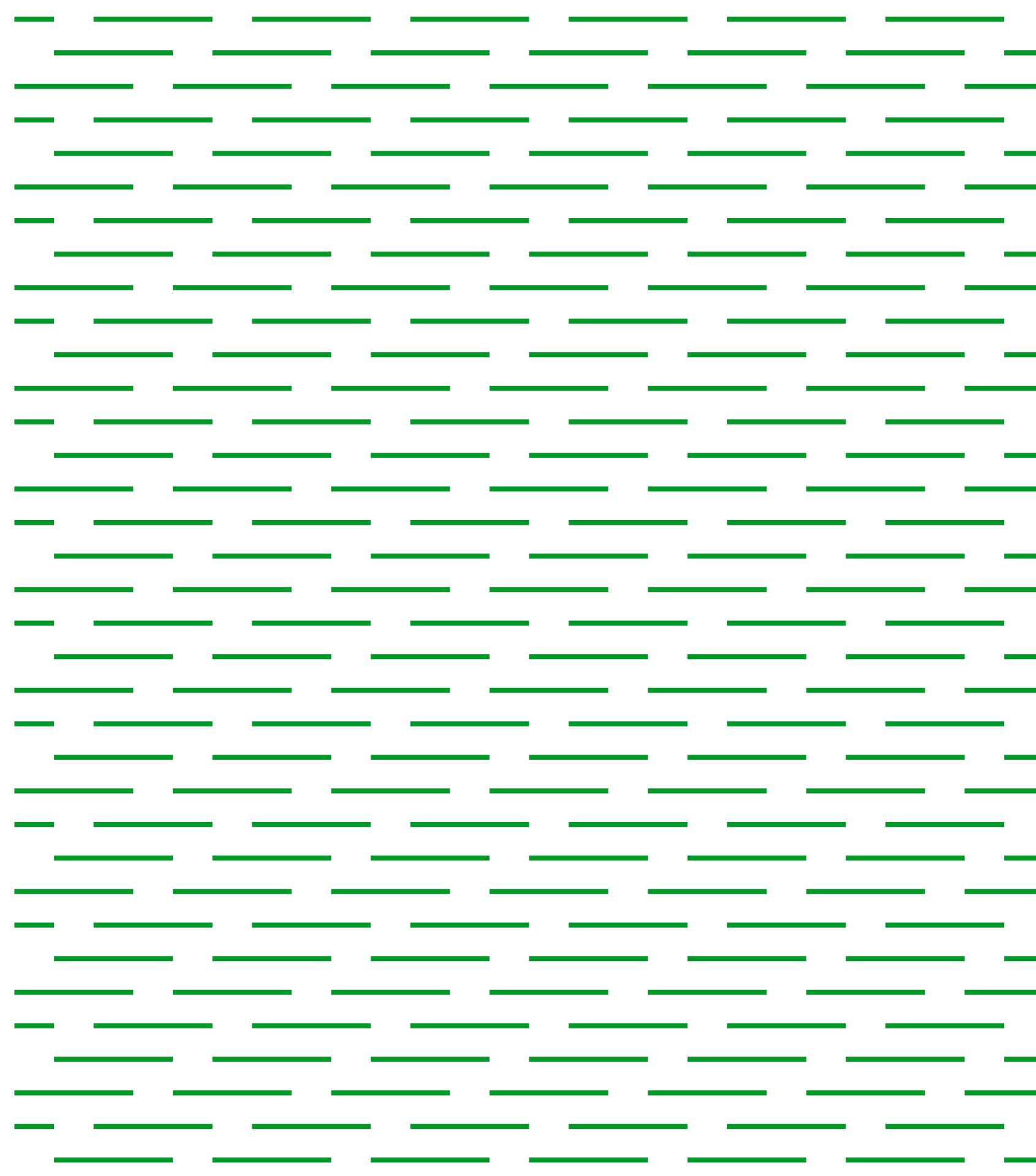
So?

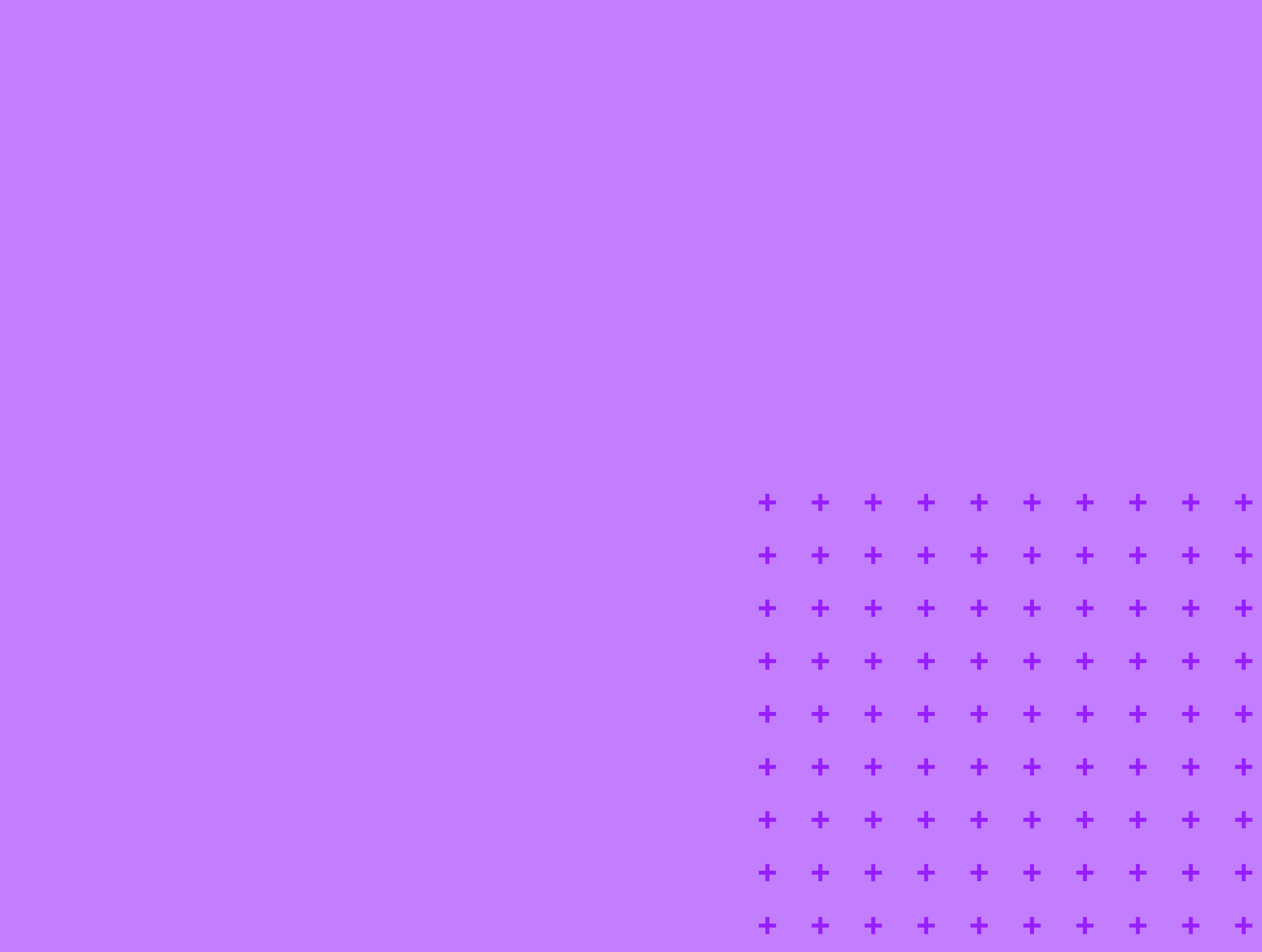
HE policy doesn't come from one place – different developments in funding, regulation and legislation have messy histories.

Policy ideas tend to echo around government for longer than you would expect – and continue to be contested even after they have come into effect.

Who has an input?

- Politicians (both ministers and backbench/opposition)
- Civil service/Whitehall
- Media, think tanks, campaigners
- Academics and university groups
- Unexpected events





Get in touch
michael@wonkhe.com

