



All-Party Parliamentary University Group

Weekly update

15 – 19 September 2025

A regular digest of House of Commons, House of Lords, and higher education sector business.

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Parliamentary business

Conference Recess

The House of Commons rose for Conference recess on 17 September and is scheduled to return on 13 October, while the House of Lords rose on 19 September, returning on 13 October.

Forthcoming business

Conference Recess

The House of Commons rose for Conference recess on 17 September and is scheduled to return on 13 October, while the House of Lords rose on 19 September, returning on 13 October.

Written questions and statements

Department for Education: Higher Education: Administration

Nadia Whittome (Labour): (UIN71433) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the proportionality of data return requirements placed on small higher education providers compared to large universities.

Josh MacAlister: Whilst the department recognises that effective regulation brings a certain amount of data burden to those being regulated, we must ensure that English higher education (HE) remains world class, financially stable and good value for students.

The department continues to work with the Office for Students to reduce unnecessary data burden, ensure a proportionate and risk-based approach to regulation, and to ensure the HE regulatory system is clearer, more effective, and more accountable.

Department for Education: Higher Education

Ian Sollom (Liberal Democrats): (UIN 70279) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to pages 12 and 19 of the report published by the Office for Students entitled Financial sustainability of higher education providers in England: 2025, published on 8 May 2025, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the potential impact of market competitiveness on (a) regional higher education provision and (b) access to higher education for students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Josh MacAlister: Market competitiveness is a longstanding feature of our independent and autonomous higher education (HE) sector.

The regional and local provision of HE, and access to HE for students from underrepresented backgrounds, are both important components of our strategy for HE.

HE providers have duties to co-operate in the development and review of Local Skills Improvement Plans and have regard to the plan when making decisions in relation to their technical education or training provision.

The department will support the aspiration of every person who meets the requirements and wants to go to university, and will act to address the persistent gaps for different student groups and to break down the barriers to opportunity.

The department will soon publish its plans for HE reform as part of the post-16 Skills White Paper.

Department for Education: Graduates: Employment

James McMurdock (Independent): (UIN72627) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent estimate she has made of how many and what proportion of recent university graduates are employed in roles that make use of their degree-level skills.

Josh MacAlister: The department does not produce these estimates.

Graduate Outcome survey data published by HESA shows that around 70% of UK domiciled students who graduated with an undergraduate degree from a UK higher education provider during the 2022/23 academic year were in high-skilled employment fifteen months after graduation. This data was published in July 2025 and can be found in Table 12 here: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/sb272/figure-12>.

The Office for National Statistics have also published ad hoc statistics on employment in graduate roles. Available data for 2023 can be found here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/adhocs/2492onslocalemploymentingraduateandnongraduaterolesbyqualificationandsectorbyukregion2023>.

Department for Education: Office for Students: Fees and Charges

Nadia Whittome (Labour): (UIN 71434) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the financial impact of Office for Students regulatory fees on small higher education providers.

Josh MacAlister: In line with the recommendation set out in the Independent Review of the Office for Students (OfS), led by former Interim Chair of the OfS David Behan, the government plans to consult on the structure of fees charged to the sector by the OfS. The consultation will allow us to work with the sector to ensure that the system is fair, proportionate, and sustainable. We will be inviting views from across the sector as part of this process. An assessment of financial impacts upon all types of providers will be made as part of this work.

Grouped Questions: 71432

Department for Education: Overseas Students: Fees and Charges

Andrew Snowden (Conservative): (UIN 73258) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on (a) the proposed international student fee levy and (b) its potential implications for (i) education, (ii) research, (iii) skills and (iv) regional economies.

Josh MacAlister: The immigration white paper sets out a series of measures that will achieve a reduction in net migration, while maintaining the UK's globally competitive offer to international students and making a significant contribution to growth by boosting our skills base.

This includes the commitment to explore the introduction of a levy on higher education (HE) provider income from international students, with proceeds to be reinvested in the domestic HE and skills system. We will set out more details around the levy in the Autumn Budget.

HE providers are independent from government and, as such, are responsible for making financial decisions that support their long-term sustainability.

The government will set out its plans for HE reform soon, as part of the Post-16 Skills White Paper, and will work with the sector and the Office for Students to deliver the change that the country needs.

Grouped Questions: 73248, 73249, 73250, 73251, 73252, 73253, 73255

Home Office: Asylum: Overseas Students

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour): (UIN 74799) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Prime Minister's has considered establishing a framework enabling asylum-seeking students to access (a) internships, (b) placements and (c) other forms of work experience that support their university courses.

Mike Tapp (Labour): Asylum seekers are eligible to apply for permission to work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted by the Home Office to apply for jobs on the Immigration Salary List (ISL).

When considering permission to work applications that forms part of a further education course such as certain apprenticeships, the individual must meet the requirements under Paragraph 360 or 360C or that the role in question meets the volunteering requirements set out in the [policy guidance published on gov.uk](#).

Cabinet Office: Erasmus+ Programme

Liz Jarvis (Liberal Democrats): (UIN 76358) To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to his Department's policy paper entitled UK-EU Summit - Common Understanding, updated on 19 May 2025, what his expected timetable is for association of the UK to the European Union Erasmus+ programme.

Nick Thomas-Symonds: We have agreed to work towards the association of the UK to the EU Erasmus+ programme. We are taking forward the next stage of negotiations on the clear mutual understanding that the UK will only associate to Erasmus+ on terms that provide value for money for the UK taxpayer. The timelines for any association will be subject to further discussion as part of these negotiations.

Department for Education: Students: Loans

Helen Maguire (Liberal Democrats): (UIN73893) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of increasing the repayment threshold of student loans on plan five in line with those on plan two.

Josh MacAlister: Where government reforms lead to the introduction of a new student loan plan type, the terms of the new loan, such as repayment threshold, interest rates and length of the loan are considered as a whole. They are then set in legislation to apply to that specific loan type, such as for Plan 5 which was introduced in 2023.

Comparing only one element, such as the threshold, of a historic plan to a new plan does not provide a balanced assessment. Though the Plan 5 repayment threshold is lower than for Plan 2, the Plan 5 interest rate is lower (RPI+0%) when compared with Plan 2 Plan (RPI+3% during study and varies with earnings post-study).

In 2022, the department conducted a government consultation to assess the impact of policy reforms on higher education funding and finance, including changes to repayment thresholds from Plan 2 to Plan 5. Details on the consultation are available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62223cfb8fa8f549071fc82c/Higher_education_policy_statement_reform_consultation - Equality analysis.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62223cfb8fa8f549071fc82c/Higher_education_policy_statement_reform_consultation_-_Equality_analysis.pdf).

Department for Science, Innovation and Technology: Overseas Students: Fees and Charges

Andrew Snowden (Conservative): (UIN 73254) To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what assessment she has made of the potential

impact of a levy on international student fees on UK university-led Research and Development capacity.

Kanishka Narayan: In the Immigration White Paper, the government committed to exploring a levy on international student fees. At this stage, no decisions have been taken on the size or implementation of any proposed levy by DfE. As such, DSIT has not made any formal assessment on the impact of university led R&D. If implemented, the levy would ensure that revenue from international students is more widely shared, and their contributions felt throughout our communities. We are committed to engaging the sector on the design of any potential levy and want to understand specific concerns providers have as early as possible.

Department for Business and Trade: Employment: Misrepresentation

Lisa Smart (Liberal Democrats): (UIN 75713) To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether his Department plans to introduce additional safeguards to prevent the mislabelling of jobs as apprenticeships.

Kate Dearden: Employers are required by law to pay their apprentices the correct rate of the National Minimum Wage. An apprenticeship combines on the job learning and classroom-based learning. Employers cannot call a worker an apprentice if they are not genuinely an apprentice.

The existing enforcement mechanisms in place already protects workers and we are creating the Fair Work Agency to deliver a much-needed upgrade to enforcement of employment rights. The Fair Work Agency will provide better support to businesses on how to comply with the law and will take tough action against rogue employers who exploit their workers.

If a worker believes they are not being paid correctly, they can seek confidential advice. If HMRC finds an employer has underpaid their workers, the employer is required to pay back the full amount owed to the worker and a penalty to the government.

Grouped Questions: 75711, 75712

Department for Education: Further Education and Higher Education: Immigration

The Rt Rev. the Lord Bishop of Sheffield (Bishops): (HL10064) To ask His Majesty's Government what consultations they are holding with the higher education and

further education sectors regarding the implications of the policy reforms introduced in the White Paper Restoring control over the immigration system, published on 12 May.

The Rt Hon. the Baroness Smith of Malvern: The immigration White Paper sets out a series of measures that will achieve a reduction in net migration, while maintaining the UK's globally competitive offer to international students and making a significant contribution to growth by boosting our skills base.

This includes the commitment to explore the introduction of a levy on higher education (HE) provider income from international students, with proceeds to be reinvested in the domestic HE and skills system. We will set out more details around the levy in the Autumn Budget.

We are committed to engaging with the sector on the design of the international student levy and want to understand specific concerns providers have as early as possible.

Department for Education: Overseas Students: Economic Situation

Abtisam Mohamed (Labour): (UIN74807) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent estimate she has made of the net financial impact of international students to the economy.

Josh MacAlister: International students make a very significant contribution to the UK economy. Departmental statistics on education-related exports, published in June, estimated that international students contributed £21.06 billion to the UK economy in 2022 through their tuition fees and living expenditure.

Department for Education: Disabled Students' Allowances

Mike Martin (Liberal Democrats): (UIN 74778) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that the contracted suppliers for the Disabled Students' Allowance are transparent with students on pricing.

Josh MacAlister: Non-medical help hourly rates, together with any awards for travel, accommodation, or other costs, are supplied in the student's entitlement letter, which outlines approved support. Additionally, the full breakdown of equipment costs is detailed in the needs assessment report, and students are entitled to request a copy of this report at any time. This means that students can see the costs associated with each element of their Disabled Students' Allowance support.

Department for Education: Universities: Freedom of Expression

Jim Shannon (Democratic Unionist Party): (UIN 74632) To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to uphold free speech in universities.

Josh MacAlister: This government is absolutely committed to freedom of speech and academic freedom in universities. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, confirmed to Parliament on 15 January the government's plans for the future of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, which will create a more proportionate, balanced and less burdensome approach to protecting academic freedom and freedom of speech.

On 28 April, the Secretary of State for Education signed commencement regulations, bringing the following provisions into force on 1 August 2025:

- Strengthened higher education (HE) provider duties in relation to securing freedom of speech and academic freedom and promoting the importance of freedom of speech and academic freedom.
- A requirement for HE providers to put in place effective codes of practice on freedom of speech and academic freedom.
- A ban of non-disclosure agreements in HE for staff and students where there is a complaint about bullying, harassment and sexual misconduct.
- A requirement for the Office for Students to promote free speech and enable it to give advice and guidance on it.

Machinery of Government - Skills - Statement

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (UIN HCWS930):

I am making this statement to bring to the House's attention the following Machinery of Government change.

I am today confirming that responsibility for apprenticeships, adult further education, skills, training and careers, and Skills England, will move from the Department for Education to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Responsibility for higher education, and further education, skills, training and careers for those aged 19 years and under will remain with the Department for Education.

Baroness Smith of Malvern, the Minister for Skills, will serve jointly across the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education.

This change is effective today, 16 September 2025.

Sector news

Support for students travelling to the UK from Gaza

As set out by the Home Secretary in her oral statement to Parliament on 1 September 2025, the Home Office has put in place systems to issue expedited visas, with biometric checks conducted prior to arrival for all the Chevening scholars from Gaza.

The Home Office is in the process of doing the same for students in Gaza who have been awarded fully funded scholarships and places at UK universities so they can start their studies in autumn this year (no later than 31 December 2025).

Prioritisation

The Home Office is prioritising those with fully funded, verifiable, scholarships starting in the autumn term, on the basis that it is assured that they meet the requirements of the Student visa rules. This decision has been made for full scholarship students due to their potential role in rebuilding Gaza in the future.

The government has outlined plans to support the departure from Gaza of a group of Chevening scholars, so they can take up university places in the UK in the autumn for the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

[You can read the full announcement.](#)

European Commission launches new strategy to strengthen Europe's research and technology infrastructures

On 15 September, the Commission has launched the European strategy on research and technology infrastructures to boost Europe's leadership in scientific excellence and technological innovation. To remain a frontrunner in the global race for science and innovation, Europe must reinforce decisively its research and technology infrastructures and make them even more integrated and accessible to a wider range of users.

The strategy ensures that scientists, researchers, innovators, and industry have easy access to Europe's cutting-edge facilities, high-quality data and tailored services. It also aims to encourage world-class researchers and innovators to 'Choose Europe'.

From top laboratories and pilot production lines to cutting-edge equipment like particle accelerators and clean rooms, Europe's world-class research infrastructures are the backbone of Europe's research and innovation ecosystem. They support the entire innovation cycle from frontier research to market-ready innovation, thereby bolstering Europe's industrial competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

The strategy puts forward a set of actions in five areas:

1. Strengthening the European research and technology infrastructures ecosystem by increasing capacities, mobilising investments and better aligning available facilities and services with user needs. The strategy also seeks to maximise the potential of digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Europe's infrastructures.
2. Ensuring simpler and better access to research and technology infrastructures aims to provide a continuum of complementary services for researchers and innovative companies, including startups and scaleups, across the EU. This will support scientific breakthroughs and boost technology development, testing and validation, accelerating the societal uptake and market-readiness of innovations.
3. Attracting and cultivating talent in Europe through strong career pathways in research and technology infrastructures, from technicians to scientific leaders. This includes supporting staff to develop new skills and competences and attracting talent from outside of Europe in line with the 'Choose Europe' approach.
4. Improving and simplifying the governance framework for research and technology infrastructures to support long-term investment decisions and align priorities among the EU Member States and stakeholders. This includes strengthening coordination across funding sources and increasing the impact of public investment.
5. Strengthening the international dimension and resilience of research and technology infrastructures through cooperation with strategic partners to address global societal challenges. The Commission will work with Member States to promote the integration of candidate and associated countries in the European Research Area. The strategy also addresses the risk management for infrastructures, particularly those related to access to critical data and facilities, fostering the EU's sovereignty in critical technologies.

[You can read the full announcement.](#)

North East England set for billions in investment and thousands of jobs as UK and US ink tech partnership

The government has announced the creation of an AI Growth Zone in the North East, set to generate more than 5,000 new jobs and attract up to £30 billion in private investment.

An AI Growth Zone in the North East is set to unlock more than 5,000 new jobs and bring in £30 billion in investment as the region becomes a hub for AI development.

Announced on 17 September, it will solidify the region's ambition to become one of the largest data centre hubs anywhere in Europe – made up of sites in Blyth and Cobalt Park near Newcastle – helping to boost economic growth and create new high skilled jobs, putting more money in people's pockets.

By boosting the rollout of AI in the area, this new AI Growth Zone will:

- Create thousands of jobs across the region, including in construction through to data engineering, AI research and development, and AI safety
- Put newly trained AI experts from local universities including Newcastle University, Durham University, Sunderland University and Northumbria University, within touching distance of the UK's newest emerging tech hub
- Drive local economic growth and increase productivity of businesses in sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, energy and finance by enabling them to more easily adopt AI and compete globally
- See new breakthroughs in our understanding of drug discovery, climate change and safer technology by giving researchers, scientists, start ups and academics access to AI power

The AI Growth Zone will generate growth opportunities across the region, capitalising on access to the UK's largest source of low carbon and renewable energy, world class universities and the regions emerging tech ecosystem in areas including advanced manufacturing, robotics and space.

Universities across the region are already driving research in AI, from better patient care to new ways to speed up mortgage approvals and detect fraud. Newcastle's National Innovation Centre for Data is also developing an AI curriculum to upskill local residents on the use of AI through to training data scientists – making the region a prime location to capitalise on local infrastructure and a pipeline of talent.

You [can read the full announcement](#).

National Student Money Survey 2025

The world of higher education is facing financial pressures across the board, and this survey from Save the Student uncovers the true impact the crisis is having on students' time at university.

The 2025/26 academic year signals the first increase in tuition fees in almost a decade, and many fear that without further hikes, institutions could be forced to close. In the meantime, mergers are becoming more common.

But universities aren't alone in facing financial troubles. In the early 2020s, the Maintenance Loan in England suffered consecutive real-terms cuts. These have become baked into the system, despite warnings from ourselves and others that it would have dire consequences for students.

The findings in this report suggest that these fears are becoming realised. As was the case in the National Student Accommodation Survey earlier this year, many stats have seen little or no improvement since the height of the cost of living crisis. Instead, this level of hardship is becoming the new normal.

Save the Student are repeating their calls for the government to increase Maintenance Loans to catch up with inflation, to ensure students receive the funding they need to thrive at university.

These are among the headline findings from this year's National Student Money Survey:

- Surveyed students spend an average of **£1,142 per month**. Students in London spend the most at £1,269 per month.
- On average, the Maintenance Loan falls short of covering living costs by **£502 per month**.
- Almost three in five (**59%**) skip meals at least some of the time to save money.
- Of those surveyed, **10%** used a food bank in the 2024/25 academic year.
- The average parental contribution has dropped to **£146 per month**, with students from middle-income households the hardest hit.
- **41%** have considered dropping out of university due to money-related issues

In response, Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive of Universities UK (UUK), said:

“Money should not be a barrier to students accessing life-changing opportunities at university or be a reason students consider dropping out. Universities are stepping up

efforts, with many offering bursaries, support schemes and assistance funds, but they can only do so much, particularly in the current financial climate.

We also need governments across the UK to increase the student maintenance package, and we were pleased to see the Maintenance Loan in England increase in line with inflation this year. Moving forward, we believe this should be a permanent policy, so that students are not faced with falling support at the same time as costs rise.

For any student that is struggling, we would encourage you to talk to your university's student support team."

You can read the full breakdown of results.

The Wartime University: The role of Higher Education in Civil Readiness – HEPI

With the UK Government moving to a posture of 'war fighting readiness' amid intensifying global conflict, a new HEPI Policy Note warns higher education remains an untapped asset in national preparedness.

The Wartime University: The role of Higher Education in Civil Readiness by Gary Fisher argues UK universities must be recognised as central pillars of national security and resilience. The paper highlights how higher education institutions represent a 'composite capability' to enhance and sustain civil readiness, spanning defence, health, skills, logistics and democratic continuity, but warns this potential remains under-recognised and poorly integrated into emergency planning frameworks.

Drawing on historical precedents, the current example of Ukraine and existing UK sector capacity, the report shows that universities are not only vulnerable in times of crisis but also indispensable. From supplying military officers and advancing defence research, to hosting community aid centres and strengthening democratic resilience, higher education institutions already operate across domains critical to national preparedness – and the new Policy Note covers a range of existing examples.

Without clearer policy design however, the diffuse capacity across the UK higher education sector risks remaining fragmented and under-leveraged.

Key findings include:

- UK universities are deeply embedded in civil society, employing nearly 400,000 staff and educating 2.9 million students, making them vital infrastructure for resilience.

- In Ukraine, universities have sheltered civilians, documented war damage, sustained research under bombardment and mobilised international partnerships. By operating beyond traditional diplomatic channels, they have acted as an extra-governmental network for aid, collaboration and civic stability. In doing so they have offered a powerful model of how higher education can serve as a stabilising force in wartime.
- UK higher education institutions already contribute to health security, food security, civic coordination and defence training, but lack formal integration into the UK's national emergency frameworks.
- Without clear protocols, universities risk being sidelined in future crises, squandering their potential as trusted, distributed hubs of civic resilience.

You [can read the full report](#).

Record-breaking £150bn investment unveiled during US State Visit

The UK has secured a historic £150 billion of inward investment from US companies, newly announced this week as part of the US President's State Visit.

These 7,600 jobs will be in all areas of the United Kingdom: 1,000 new jobs in Belfast and 6,000 more roles from Glasgow to Warrington, the Midlands and the North-East. This investment will deliver opportunities from apprenticeships in clean energy to careers in biotech and AI.

This package is said to reflect the scale of ambition shared by the UK and US in the future-facing industries prioritised under the UK's Industrial Strategy. It comes alongside the world leading Tech Prosperity Deal.

Key new announcements include:

- A £90 billion new investment pledge from Blackstone which is in addition to the £10 billion of previously announced for datacentre development in the UK.
- £3.9 billion investment from world leading investment firm, Prologis, to strengthen its current investment at Cambridge Biomedical Campus and including a major upgrade to Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, supporting growth in life sciences and advanced manufacturing and creating local jobs in surrounding areas including Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.

- Palantir to invest up to £1.5 billion to help make the UK a defence innovation leader and create up to 350 new jobs.
- £150 million investment from American tech company, Amentum, creating more than 3,000 jobs across Glasgow to Warrington and the Midlands, expanding its UK workforce by over 50%.
- Boeing to convert two 737 aircraft in Birmingham for the US Air Force — the first USAF aircraft built in the UK in over 50 years — creating 150 high-skilled jobs.
- US Engineering firm, STAX, has committed £37 million to expand their UK operations and pioneer emission reducing technology at ports around the country.
- Major funding into UK-based R&D and startups, accelerating growth in biotech, AI, and advanced manufacturing.

Business and Trade Secretary Peter Kyle said:

“These record-breaking investments will create thousands of high-quality jobs across the UK — from clean energy to advanced manufacturing.

It's a huge vote of confidence in our economy and a clear sign that our Plan for Growth is delivering for working people.

Working closely with the US strengthens our global position and delivers real results for British businesses.

The UK-US relationship is economically balanced and mutually beneficial. Alongside the record-breaking inward investment package, today UK companies are also making significant commitments to invest the US market.”

You [can read the full announcement](#).

Privately educated tighten their grip on Britain’s most powerful roles – Sutton Trust report

Just 7% of the general population attends private schools. However, Elitist Britain, a new report published by the Sutton Trust, lays bare the extent to which the UK remains dominated by people from elite education backgrounds across a variety of fields, including politics, media, business, sport and the creative arts

The most powerful and influential people in the UK remain 5 times more likely to have attended a fee-paying school than the general population. Members of this

leadership elite are also twice as likely to go to university, over five times more likely to have gone to a Russell Group university and 21 times more likely to have gone to Oxford or Cambridge than the general population.

Despite significant social and political change since 2019, little progress has been made in ensuring Britain's leadership class better reflects the broader population.

You [can read the full report](#).

Consultation on the future approach to quality regulation – OfS

The Office for Students (OfS) is proposing to change the way it regulates and assesses the quality of higher education in the regulated English higher education sector. This consultation sets out the background to proposals, the reasons the OfS is proposing to make these changes and what changes they expect to achieve.

This consultation sets out proposals for the aims and approach of the OfS's future quality system. It sets out proposals on:

1. Modifications to the overall quality system.
2. Modifications to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

Timing

Start: **18 September 2025**

End: **11 December 2025**

You [can read the full notice](#).

Shaping the future of higher education governance - Advance HE

The Big Conversation has been a sector-wide endeavour to consider the state of higher education governance working jointly with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC), the Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA), Universities UK, GuildHE and Independent HE. The findings have focused on what is working, what needs to improve, where practice varies, and how governance should change. This work has benefited from drawing on the perspectives and expertise across these sector organisations and the insights from within their membership.

Ten priorities to enhance HE governance:

In drawing together the findings from this activity, they have identified 10 headlines which Advance HE are now encouraging the governance community across higher education to reflect on:

1. **Enhanced board composition** - actively reflecting on size, skills and diversity to meet evolving sector challenges
2. **Proactive scenario planning** - engaging boards more effectively in stress testing assumptions and forecasts
3. **Agile decision-making** - improving meeting cycles and focusing ruthlessly on strategic, regulatory or materially significant matters
4. **Technology integration** - leveraging digital solutions for more effective governance processes and information sharing
5. **Governor development** - raising expectations for continuous professional development throughout terms of service
6. **Increased transparency** - telling the governance story more openly and creatively to staff, students, partners and society
7. **Academic governance integration** - strengthening links between corporate and academic governance structures
8. **Regulatory compliance demonstration** - more proactive and transparent approaches to showing adherence to codes and regulations
9. **Remuneration consideration** - exploring benefits and challenges of payment to secure talent, raise expectations and improve diversity
10. **Partnership collaboration** - being more open-minded about strategic partnerships and shared services.

Underpinning all of these themes is that culture is crucial, along with the need for a challenging and inquisitive mindset from the Board and openness and transparency from the Executive to proactively share concerns and performance.

Analysis of survey data on university governance effectiveness

In addition, Advance HE has published the '[Thematic Analysis of Governance Benchmark Survey Data](#)' drawing upon over 60 governance effectiveness reviews conducted since 2020 at a variety of providers. Via more than 1,200 respondents, we saw strong correlations with the 10 themes identified in the '[Shaping the future of HE governance](#)' report with members of governing bodies continually identifying the need to improve stakeholder engagement; raising expectations of continuous

governor development; strengthening links with academic governance and board composition (including board diversity), underpinned by governance culture being crucial to success. This is part of the picture and there is more work to understand the future of HE governance in the UK.

You can read the full announcement.

House of Commons Education Committee publishing written evidence

The **House of Commons Education Committee** has published 92 pieces of written evidence submitted to its inquiry into higher education funding and the threat of insolvency, including from the Department for Education, UKRI, the Competition and Markets Authority, the Student Loans Company, Universities UK, UCEA, and many other sector bodies, trade unions, individual universities, and individuals.