

# The All-Party Parliamentary **Operation of Content**

#### University APPG weekly update

18 – 22 July 2022

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

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# **Parliamentary Business**

# Westminster Hall debate BTEC qualifications

On Monday 18 July, Marsha De Cordova MP (Labour) opened a Westminster Hall debate to consider e- petition 592642, relating to the proposed cutting of BTEC qualification funding. She said the petition was about choice, and not forcing students to choose between studying only A levels or T Levels.

Shadow Minister for Cabinet Office, Rachel Hopkins MP, agreed that every student deserved a first-class education, and giving students choice to shape their learning, assessment and career path was critical to their success.

Shadow Minister for Disabled People, Vicky Foxcroft MP, said BTECs were engines of social mobility, and noted that research from the Social Market Foundation found that 44 percent of white working-class students who entered university studied at least one BTEC, and 37 percent of black students entered with only BTEC qualifications.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills, Further and Higher Education, Andrea Jenkyns MP, said the introduction of T levels was critical to driving up productivity and supporting social mobility. She added that the government were determined that all young people could learn about the exciting, high-quality opportunities that technical education and apprenticeships could offer.

You can read the transcript here. You can watch the session here.

# National Security Bill at Commons Committee:

On Tuesday 19 July, the National Security Bill continued its line-by-line scrutiny by Public Bill Committee.

Kevan Jones MP (Labour) discussed the State Threat Prevention and Investigation Measures (STPIMs) set out by the Bill. He asked whether the minister envisaged that these measures could be used to prevent individuals who were "intimidating or trying to close down" legitimate protests against the Chinese Communist Party on UK university campuses. In response, the Minister for Security, Stephen McPartland MP, said that given the resources required for an STPIM, the government would attempt to use "any other means possible" to prosecute individuals for harassment under normal criminal law. He added that the STPIM would only be used by the government as a last resort when no other option was available.

The Bill will return to complete its Committee Stage in the House of Commons after recess.

You can <u>watch the sessions</u> here and <u>read the transcripts and latest amendment</u> <u>papers</u> here.

#### Women and Equalities Committee oral evidence:

The oral evidence session on attitudes towards women and girls in educational settings, timetabled for Wednesday 20 July, was postponed to Wednesday 7 September.

# **Forthcoming business**

The House of Commons and House of Lords rose for summer recess on Thursday 21 July. Both Houses will return on Monday 5 September, when a new Conservative leader will also be announced.

# Written Questions

# **Higher Education: Espionage**

**Catherine West**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department has made an assessment of the level of threat of espionage on behalf of China in the UK higher education sector. [UIN 33877]

**Andrea Jenkyns**: The department cannot release information regarding threat assessments on the grounds of National Security.

#### **Research: Skilled Workers**

**Chris Green**: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the ambition in the Life Sciences Vision to develop a highly skilled workforce, what steps he is taking to develop (a) translational research and (b) broader life sciences research talent in the UK. [UIN 31861]

**Greg Hands**: The Government is committed to developing Life Sciences research talent as part of its vision to make the UK the leading global hub for Life Sciences.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) directs around £85 million each year towards developing research careers, supporting around 1,600 PhD students.

Translational research is supported by MRC 's successful translational funding strategy, which seeks to progress innovative discovery science towards clinical utility.

In addition, Innovate UK supports the development of translation research skills through the Biomedical Catalyst Accelerator programme, which focusses on priority areas highlighted in the Life Sciences Vision, such as oncology and neurodegeneration

#### **Educational Institutions: Mental Health Services**

**Munira Wilson**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many full-time equivalent mental health staff were recruited in education settings in (a) 2019, (b) 2020, (c) 2021 and (d) 2022. [UIN 35057]

**Brendan Clarke-Smith**: The department does not collect or hold information on the number of full time equivalent mental health staff recruited by education providers.

The department thinks it is important to promote joint approaches between education and health to provide coherent support to children and young people. That is why, through 'Transforming children and young people's mental health: a green paper', the department established NHS-funded mental health support teams, made up of education mental health practitioners, to provide early support, overseen by clinicians. More than 2.4 million children and young people now have access to a mental health support team and more teams are on the way, increasing from 287 to over 500 teams by 2024.

To support schools and colleges to introduce effective approaches to mental health and wellbeing, the department has committed to offer all state schools and colleges a grant to train a senior mental health lead by 2025. Over 8,000 schools and colleges, which includes half of all state-funded secondary schools in England, have taken up the offer so far. Regarding higher education providers, through strategic guidance to the Office for Students, the department asked that it distributes £15 million of funding in the 2022/23 financial year to give additional support for transitions from school/college to university, and through targeting funding to support partnership working with NHS services to provide pathways of care for students.

#### **Private Rented Housing: Students**

**Lord Truscott**: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the proposals in the Renters Reform Bill on the availability and supply of student accommodation in the private rented sector [UIN HL1465].

**Lord Harrington of Watford**: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has used consultation feedback and extensive stakeholder engagement

to understand the impact of proposals of the Renters Reform Bill on the availability and supply of student accommodation in the private rented sector.

The proposed reforms will support student households who have children or local roots to remain in their properties after studying if they wish to, whilst students living in privately-run purpose-built student accommodation will be governed by the same rules as those in university-owned accommodation, given the specific purpose of this housing.

We will continue to consider the impact of our reforms as we move towards legislation and will publish a full impact assessment in due course.

# **Universities: Spiking**

**Julie Elliott**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to help prevent spiking incidents at universities [UIN 32533].

Andrea Jenkyns: On 24 May 2022, the former Secretary of State for Education launched a new working group dedicated to tackling the scourge of spiking attacks against university students. This forms part of the wider government mission to tackle violent and sexual crimes and strengthen victims' rights. The group brings together vice-chancellors, police, campaigners, and victims to produce plans for practical action to help keep students safe. It will report back before the start of the autumn term. Professor Lisa Roberts, University of Exeter Vice Chancellor, has been appointed to lead the working group and coordinate the higher education sector's response. Insight and evidence gathered by the working group will be used to inform the government's report to Parliament on spiking, due to be published in spring 2023. The government has already taken action to reclassify gamma hydroxybutyrate and closely related substances which have been used for drink spiking. It will work with law enforcement and local authorities to tackle spiking incidents, including considering the case for a specific criminal offence for spiking. Many universities have also set up their own initiatives to tackle the issue. The University of Exeter is offering drink safety test strips, and Nottingham Trent University is funding and delivering bystander intervention training to staff in night-time city venues. The new working group will look at these and other solutions being tested on campuses across the country.

#### **Higher Education: Admissions**

**Caroline Lucas**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has made an estimate of how the number of finally unplaced young people at the end of the 2022 university admission round will compare to years prior to the covid-19 outbreak; if she will make it her policy to (a) fund additional and specific careers guidance and pastoral support, (b) make available an additional year of full further education funding, (c) provide additional access provision in Higher Education and (d) undertake any other measures needed to support young people in that position; and if she will make a statement. [UIN 31812]

Andrea Jenkyns: The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) operates as an independent charity and is separate from the government. The department will continue to work closely with UCAS, schools, colleges, awarding organisations, and the higher education (HE) sector to support the 2022 intake of students, so they can go on to their next step in life, whether that is university, further training, or work.

In November 2021, my right hon. Friend, the former Minister for Higher and Further Education, wrote to Vice Chancellors to recognise the hard work and dedication that the sector has shown to students throughout the 2021 and 2022 admissions cycles. The former Minister asked that additional resilience is built into strategies for the 2022 HE admissions cycle. HE sector bodies were engaged through the HE Taskforce to commend them on their efforts to date and to ask that they continue to put students first.

In June 2022, UCAS reported that 281,500 UK 18-year-olds were holding a firm offer, up 7,000 on last year and the highest on record. UCAS expect more students than in previous years to gain a place at their firm choice institution. It expects that on A level and T Level Results Day around 80% of students are likely to be confirmed at their firm choice. However, it is important to note that the exact numbers will not be known until 18 August, A level and T Level Results Day.

If students do not get the required grades, their preferred HE provider may still offer them a place. In the first instance, students are encouraged to talk to their school or college, or to their preferred university, who may be able to offer some flexibility. Students can also seek advice from the Exam Results Helpline run by the National Careers Service. UCAS will help thousands of students to find places through Clearing or explore other options once they have received their grades and predict that over 30,000 places will be available. Last year, 56,225 students (10%) entered university via Clearing. While HE opens many doors for those who study at this level, it is by no means the right option for everyone, including those with the highest grades. There are multiple options for students to progress, including HE but also traineeships, T Levels, apprenticeships, the Kickstart scheme, and higher technical qualifications.

# **Nurses: Training**

**Chi Onwurah**: To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department provides support for people seeking to enrol in an access course to train at university as a nurse. [UIN 36761]

**Maria Caulfield**: Financial support is provided by the Department for Education. In the academic year 2022/23, the Department for Education has approved funding for 15 Access to Higher Education Diplomas in Nursing through the Adult Education Budget or Advanced Learner Loans. If a learner then completes an eligible higher education course, the balance of the Advanced Learner Loan for the Access course will be written off.

# **Students: Mental Health Services**

**Matt Vickers**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to help support students with their mental health. [UIN 26906]

Andrea Jenkyns: To ensure that all students have access to dedicated mental health support, no matter where they study, we have asked the Office for Students (OfS) to fund Student Space, a mental health and wellbeing online platform for students, with up to £3.6 million invested so far. Providing vital mental health and wellbeing resources to all students across the country, it has been accessed by over 250,000 students since its launch in August 2020.

We asked the OfS to allocate an additional £15 million towards student mental health in the 2022/23 financial year to help address the challenges to student mental health posed by the transition to university and to support better joined-up working with NHS services. This funding targets those students in greatest need of such services, including vulnerable groups and hard to reach students. To make faster progress, the OfS will allocate up to £3 million of this funding towards developing stronger partnership working with NHS services. Alongside my hon Friend, the member for Chichester, the former Minister of State for Higher and Further Education chaired a summit in June to launch this work and ensure that the department and the Department of Health and Social Care work together to achieve this common goal.

The department also supports the University Mental Health Charter led by Student Minds. The University Mental Health Charter intends to drive up standards of practice across the higher education (HE) sector and, so far, 41 HE providers have joined the programme. I have written to heads of HE providers to set the ambition that all HE providers sign up within the next five years.

#### **Students: Assessments**

**Rachael Maskell**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to provide additional support to students who do not reach their required university grades. [UIN 26790]

Andrea Jenkyns: The department will continue to work closely with the higher education (HE) sector to support the 2022 intake of students to ensure they can go on to their next step in life following A level and T Level Results day on 18 August.

The department, in collaboration with Ofqual, has put in place a package of measures in place to ensure that students can take their exams fairly to recognise the disruption that this year's students have faced. In addition, this summer Ofqual will ask exam boards to set grade boundaries in a way that avoids disadvantaging some students who might otherwise have just missed out on a higher grade. This means that overall, 2022 results are likely to be higher than in 2019, but lower than we saw in 2021. This package of adaptations, combined with Ofqual 's approach to grading, provides unprecedented support to maximise fairness and help students reach their potential.

If students do not get the grades they need, their preferred HE provider may still offer them a place. In the first instance, I encourage students to talk to their school or college, or to their preferred university, who may be able to offer some flexibility. Students can also seek advice from the Exam Results Helpline run by the National Careers Service. Just as they do in any normal year, UCAS will help thousands of students to find places through Clearing if you need or choose to explore other options once students have received their grades. While HE opens many doors for those who study at this level, it is by no means the right option for everyone, including those with the highest grades. There are several options available for students, including Post 16 and 18 technical options, including Traineeships, T Levels, Apprenticeships, Kickstart, and Higher Technical Qualifications.

#### T Levels

**Toby Perkins**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many students started to study each T Level course broken down by (a) institution and (b) course in 2021-22. [UIN 35915]

**Andrea Jenkyns**: Recruitment information received from the 102 education providers offering T Levels in the 2021 to 2022 academic year shows 5,450 T Level participants. The proportion of participants by T Level route was approximately 1,150 on Construction T Levels, 1,200 on Digital T Levels, 1,500 on Education and Childcare T Levels, and 1,600 on Health and Science T Levels. The department will publish more detailed figures in the 2022 T Level Action Plan in due course.

The department has published official data on 16 to 18 year olds' participation, which includes T Level student numbers, at

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-in-education-training-andemployment-2021 . This data is not available at institution level, however, we do also publish data on 16-19 funding allocations at institution level, at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-allocation-data-2021-to-2022-academic-year.

# **Higher Education: Standards**

**Matt Vickers**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what progress he has made to improve the quality of higher education courses. [UIN 26905]

Andrea Jenkyns: The government is committed to improving the quality of higher education (HE), tackling low-quality courses, and ensuring all students, regardless of their background, benefit from high-quality world-leading education.

We are taking forward significant regulatory reform with the Office for Students (OfS) which aims to introduce a more rigorous and effective quality regime. This includes setting stringent minimum numerical thresholds for student outcomes, where the OfS is currently considering responses to its consultation, and measures to ensure a high-quality academic experience.

HE courses which lead to poor outcomes let down students, fail to provide value-formoney for taxpayers and students, and erode confidence in our world-class university system. Where quality requirements are not being met, the OfS will impose sanctions on providers where appropriate, including financial penalties, suspension from the OfS register or, in the worst cases, deregistration.

We have asked the OfS to implement a visible and effective inspections regime where the OfS has concerns about the quality of provision. This will involve on-site inspections. The OfS is delivering this and announced its first wave of onsite inspections on 26 May which will look specifically at Business and Management courses provided by eight HE providers. These will also examine whether poor-quality online learning has replaced face-to-face teaching to the detriment of students' academic experience.

# **British Students Abroad: USA**

**Emma Lewell-Buck**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding his Department provides to English students studying a full degree at a university in the US. [UIN 27625]

Andrea Jenkyns: Students are eligible for student finance only where their course is offered by a UK registered provider and is substantially provided in the UK so that at least half of the teaching and supervision which comprise the course is provided in the UK. This ensures that funding is focused on eligible students studying within the UK.

To extend loan support to every student, no matter where they study, would involve substantial additional costs to the taxpayer, who already heavily subsidise the loan scheme.

The Fulbright Scholarship global programme provides the largest merit-based scholarship in the world, operating in 144 countries with bilateral programmes in 49

of them. The US-UK Fulbright Commission is responsible for administering the Fulbright Programme in the UK and is co-funded by the US and UK governments.

#### **Students Unions**

**Matt Western**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many Students' Unions he has engaged with since 13 May 2022. [UIN 23374]

Andrea Jenkyns: My right hon. Friend, the former Secretary of State for Education has not engaged with any students' unions since 13 May 2022.

The former Minister of State for Universities regularly met representatives of students' unions, including most recently on a visit to the University of Exeter on 19 May 2022.

Although the government has disengaged with the National Union of Students, we continue to work with individual students' unions and students more broadly, and officials from the department are careful to ensure that the views of students are able to contribute to policy development as appropriate.

# **Universities: Admissions**

**Matt Western**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of people who deferred entry to university in 2021-22 on offer rates for the academic year 2022-23. [UIN 23377]

Andrea Jenkyns: The department continues to work closely with the higher education (HE) sector to support the 2022 intake of students to ensure they can go on to their next step in life whether that's university, on-the-job training, moving into employment or continuing to study elsewhere.

We are confident that the impact of deferrals on offer rates for the academic year 2022/23 will be minimal. The UCAS end of cycle figures for the 2021/22 academic year cycle show that 6.5% of all accepted applicants deferred their place, a figure that is within 1 percentage point of the proportion who deferred in 2019/20 and 2020/21. There is no cap on the number of people who can go into HE and universities are prepared to meet the potential demand.

The department encourages students applying to university to be ambitious with their study choices and take the time to consider the route that is best for them. A large proportion of universities, including many in the Russell Group, will have places available in Clearing, which will provide opportunities for those who may have just missed their predicted grades.

#### Life Sciences: North East

**Alex Cunningham**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent steps his Department has taken to help support universities in the North East to provide skilled graduates for the region's life science sector. [UIN 32529]

Andrea Jenkyns: The department has worked with Universities UK, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the Institute of Student Employers, the Office for Students (OfS), and across the sector to understand what more we can do to support graduates looking to enter the labour market. This includes supporting graduates to work in life sciences.

We have also developed the graduate employment and skills guide, which was published on 10 May 2021 on the OfS' website. The guide signposts graduate to public, private, and voluntary sector opportunities to help them build employability skills, gain work experience, or enter the labour market.

Additionally, the Medical Research Council targets around £85 million each year towards developing research careers, supporting around 1,600 PhD students. Many students are based within North East Universities, including Newcastle University.

# **Medicine: Higher Education**

**Baroness Masham of Ilton**: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students wanting to study medicine have been turned down because of a lack of places at universities in England [UIN HL1439].

**Baroness Barran**: Medicine is a hugely competitive course, and consistently has far more applicants than there are places available. The department has funded an additional 1,500 undergraduate medical school places each year for domestic students in England – a 25% increase over three years. This expansion was completed in September 2020 and has delivered five new medical schools in England. In addition, we temporarily lifted the cap on medical and dental school places for students who completed A levels in 2020 and in 2021 and who had an offer from a university in England to study medicine or dentistry, subject to their grades.

My right hon. Friend, the former Secretary of State for Education, and my hon. Friend, the former Minister for Health, have made clear to all medicine and dental schools, in joint letters in October 2021 and again in March 2022, that there is no room for flexibility this year, and it is the department's firm expectation that all schools will only recruit up to the maximum number of students as set in the Office for Students ' intake targets.

We are confident that providers will make fair decisions around admissions and students who are unable to secure a place in medicine will have a number of other high-quality options, either within higher education or through other post-18 pathways.

# **Turing Scheme: Finance**

Matt Western: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the median grant size awarded to the students set to participate in the Turing Scheme in 2022 is. [UIN 31201]

Andrea Jenkyns: The first year of the Turing Scheme has provided funding for placements in the 2021/22 academic year. As placements are ongoing, it is not possible to provide summary statistics on grants awarded at this time. Statistics on the Turing Scheme will be available in the Autumn, after the end of the first year of the programme. Currently published information on the 2021/22 funding provided by the Turing Scheme is available at: https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/funding-opportunities/funding-results/.

Data relating to median grant rates for Erasmus+ is not published by the National Agency. The European Commission publishes data on overall grants by activity for each National Agency, but this cannot be disaggregated into individual learners grants. This summary data can be found in the statistical annexes of their Statistics page which is available here: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/statistics-and-factsheets.

#### **Office for Students**

**Matt Western**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to provide additional resources to support the Office for Students (OfS) in mitigating the risks identified in the OfS Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22. [UIN 31196]

Andrea Jenkyns: The department, together with the Office for Students (OfS), regularly reviews its resourcing and funding position, discussing new work, and changing priorities.

It should also be noted that we, as sponsor department of the OfS, take the roles and duties set out in Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Sponsorship very seriously, including in relation to oversight of OfS resourcing, risk, and performance.

# **Universities: Gifts and Endowments**

**Jim Shannon**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his policy is on universities accepting donations from overseas (a) organisations and (b) individuals. [UIN 27602]

Andrea Jenkyns: Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

Universities are autonomous and will have their own fundraising and gift acceptance policies in place. University due diligence processes should consider reputational, ethical and security risks.

The security guidelines commissioned by the government and published by Universities UK in October 2020, 'Managing risks in internationalisation: securityrelated issues', advises universities on engaging in secure international collaborations. This includes a recommendation that due diligence be conducted on all international partnerships.

The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill will address concerns about the possible influence of overseas money in English higher education (HE), without reducing the ability of our world class universities to work with global partners. New measures set out in the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill will require HE providers in England to report to the Office for Students (OfS) any relevant overseas

funding received by the HE provider, a constituent institution, or a member or member of staff of the provider or constituent institution (in their capacity as such).

These measures will help the OfS understand the possible impact of overseas income on freedom of speech and academic freedom and monitor any trends and patterns of concern.

# **Vocational Education: Qualifications**

**Matt Vickers**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to increase the quality of technical qualifications. [UIN 26903]

Andrea Jenkyns: We are reforming technical education to ensure that all post-16 students have access to technical options that support progression and meet employer needs. This includes the introduction of T Levels, designed with employers, reviewing all other technical qualifications at level 3 and below and introducing new Higher Technical qualifications.

We are putting employers at the heart of the skills system and boosting the quality of qualifications on offer, basing them on employer-led occupational standards, so that all students leave education with the skills most needed by industry.

# **Universities: Freedom of Expression**

**Matt Vickers**: To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to protect freedom of speech in universities. [UIN 26904]

Andrea Jenkyns: This government believes that freedom of speech and academic freedom are fundamental pillars of our higher education system and that protecting these principles should be a priority for universities.

That is why the Higher Education Freedom of Speech Bill has been introduced. The bill will strengthen existing freedom of speech duties and directly address gaps within the existing law, ensuring, for example, that higher education providers found to be in breach of their duties can be clearly and robustly held to account. The bill also applies the duties directly to students' unions and constituent colleges, including

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those at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The bill introduces a role for the Office for Students board, with responsibility for overseeing its strengthened duties to promote freedom of speech and investigate where potential breaches of the duties occur.

The changes will introduce clear consequences for breaches of the new duties and ensure that these principles are upheld.

The bill is currently passing through the House of Lords.

# **Sector news**

#### Government transitional R&I package announcement

On 20 July 2022, the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) announced a set of transitional measures to ensure the stability and continuity of funding for researchers and businesses if the UK is unable to associate to Horizon Europe.

These measures included:

- the UK Guarantee scheme already in operation
- funding for successful, in-flight UK-based applicants to Horizon
- uplifts to existing UK talent schemes
- uplifts to innovation funding and support for businesses, in particular SMEs
- uplifts to international innovation schemes to support international business collaborations
- funding for research institutions most affected by the loss of Horizon Europe's talent funding
- continued Third Country Participation in Horizon Europe

You can <u>read the full announcement</u> here.

# **Organisations seek R&I commitment from Conservative leadership candidates**

A coalition representing some of the UK's leading businesses, campaign organisations, universities and charities called on the next Prime Minister to prioritise research and innovation in a statement published on 20 July.

The statement welcomed the commitment to increase public research and development (R&D) spending to £22 billion a year by 2026/27 and drive economywide R&D investment to 2.4% of GDP in 2027. They sought for the Conservative leadership contenders to ensure the UK remained globally competitive in RDI with an R&D target of 3% of GDP.

You can <u>read the full statement</u> here.

#### Independent review of UKRI published

On 20 July the independent review of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), led by Sir David Grant, was published by the Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This is the first review of UKRI since its creation in 2018. Ministers and UKRI leadership expressed their support for the review's 18 recommendations, which include investment in harmonising IT systems, clarifying roles and responsibilities within UKRI and with BEIS, and further focus on demonstrating outcomes from their funding.

Business Secretary, Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP, said: "I welcome Sir David's recommendations. To support our ambition to establish the UK as a true Science Superpower, we have given UKRI its largest funding settlement ever, with over £25 billion across the next 3 years."

You can <u>read the full review</u> here.

#### Agreement with India to recognise HE qualifications

On 21 July, the UK and India signed an agreement to recognise each other's higher education qualifications.

In 2020/2021 the UK welcomed 84,555 Indian students and India is a popular destination for UK students to study abroad as part of the Turing Scheme. The agreement will make UK universities even more appealing to Indian applicants and is likely to provide an economic boost, with the benefit to the UK of welcoming non-EU students estimated to be £109,000 per person.

Secretary of State for Education, Rt. Hon. James Cleverly MP, said: "This agreement builds on our UK- India partnership and removes barriers so even more of the best

and brightest students from India can study here, boosting our economy and enriching our campuses and communities."

You can <u>read the full release</u> here.