



The All-Party Parliamentary **University Group**



Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the first monthly update following the return of parliament.

The sector and parliament alike have not had the quietest of Summer breaks, and we've headed into this new year with a number of challenges to face. The number one priority for all political parties and institutions will be dealing with the challenges that Brexit presents. This will be a long term issue for us all.

In addition to this the Higher Education and Research Bill continues. The Commons Public Bill Committee has completed its scrutiny and the Bill moves into report stage. The group will be hearing from Professor Andrew Wathey, Jo Johnson MP and Gordon Marsden MP at its next meeting on Wednesday 16 November on this topic. Invites will be sent shortly but we expect the meeting to cover; the changes that have been made to the Bill, what challenges the sector and parliament believe remain for its progression, and how colleagues must prepare for its implementation.

The group had its first meeting of the year on Tuesday this week. A packed event with lively discussion on how the sector should plan for Brexit and some very informative contributions from Professor Paul O'Prey and Professor Philippe Moreillon. Notes from the meeting will of course be shared, including on the website, in due course.

One of the outcomes that the group is hoping for following this meeting is to develop an issues paper on Brexit and the sector. This would be a combination of short essays, exploring the effect of leaving the EU, both positive and negative, covering research, staff recruitment and student recruitment. The aim would be to identify a list of key questions for those that will be negotiating on behalf of the UK, which APPG parliamentary colleagues can push.

We hope to have a paper prepared ahead of the Christmas Recess and would be very grateful for any examples, both local and national, of how Brexit may affect these areas above. In addition to this if our vice-chancellor members have a particular connection to their local MP and are able to share their feelings on these issues with the secretariat that would be incredibly useful.

We hope that we can add value to the debate and provide some support to our sector colleagues.

Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group

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Upcoming meetings

Wednesday 16 November

The Higher Education and Research Bill

6-7.30pm, Committee Room 2a, followed by dinner in Dining Room B

Professor Andrew Wathey, Vice-Chancellor, Northumbria University, Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science and Gordon Marsden MP, Shadow Higher and Further Education Minister

Tuesday 6 December

The equalities agenda

8.30-10am, Dining Room B

This update is produced by Universities UK. It provides links to all relevant parliamentary business and sector announcements for the previous week and notes upcoming business. The APPG council have also suggested that university members may like to suggest inclusions from their institutions, such as major reports, speeches or events. If you did wish to do so, please do get in touch.

The University APPG twitter account ([@universityappg](https://twitter.com/@universityappg)) will also be tweeting updates of parliamentary business and sector announcements. We would encourage all members to follow the account.

The University APPG blog is now up and running and I would like to encourage members who may be interested in writing a piece to please get in touch.

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Forthcoming Business

Home Office Oral Questions

On Monday 31 October Home Office ministers answer questions in the House, from 2.30pm.

Lords Debate

Lord Soley has called for a debate on the potential impact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on funding for universities and scientific research. This will take place on Thursday 3 November following oral questions.

Lords Debates

On Thursday 27 October Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative) called for a debate on the floor of the House, on the Government's plans to promote **social mobility** and build a society that works for everyone, you can read the transcript of the debate at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-27/debates/ECBB0C13-5A22-4448-BD5E-78B2E469E957/SocialMobility>

Also on Thursday 27 October in the Grand Committee, Baroness Deech called a Question for short debate on steps to combat **anti-Semitism**, in particular in universities. Again you can find details of the debate at the following link: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-27/debates/227897B0-59AE-4AD0-B9C5-7B3105DDEED2/Anti-Semitism>

Lords Oral Questions

On Monday 24 October Lord Dubs (Labour) asked Her Majesty's Government what **assurances they can give to European Union citizens living in the UK**, and British citizens living in other European Union countries, regarding their position following the negotiations for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. As expected the Government's answer was "the Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals here. The only circumstances in which that would not be possible are if British citizens' rights in other EU member states were not protected in return." You can see all the contributions at:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-24/debates/514482EC-17DA-4524-9C9C-A9B8173764E3/BrexitEUCitizens>

On Wednesday 25 October Lord Naseby (Conservative) asked Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review the **number of students studying medicine**. The full response can be found at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-26/debates/BACEA577-4B67-4535-9657-766DE7629133/MedicalStudents>

Following the above question on Wednesday, Lord Haskel (Labour) asked Her Majesty's Government whether they have prepared their **industrial strategy**; and if so, what it is. The full text can be found at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-10-26/debates/97F5524F-A89C-49C8-A2BE-F10DE3216F36/IndustrialStrategy>

Select Committees

A number of select committees held evidence sessions with ministers this week, these were:

Lords Science and Technology Committee

On Tuesday 25 October Jo Johnson MP gives evidence to the Committee on their inquiry into EU membership and UK science. You can watch this session again [here](#).

Science and Technology Committee

The Commons hear from witnesses on the topic of Leaving the EU: Implications and opportunities for science and research on Wednesday 26 October from 1.45pm, including:

- Robin Walker MP, Department for Exiting the European Union
- Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science

You can watch this session again [here](#).

European Scrutiny Committee

Also on Wednesday another Commons committee hears from Rt Hon David Jones MP, Department for Exiting the European Union on EU-UK relations in preparation for Brexit. You can watch this session again [here](#).

Changes to membership

There were also changes to the membership of several Commons committees. Details below:

- **Education Committee** - Stephen Timms MP has been discharged from the committee, and will be replaced by Lilian Greenwood MP (Lab, Nottingham South)
- **Home Affairs Committee** - Victoria Atkins MP has been discharged from the committee, and will be replaced by Byron Davies MP (Con, Gower)
- **Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee** - Paul Blomfield MP and Jonathan Reynolds MP have been discharged from the committee, and will be replaced by Albert Owen MP (Lab, Ynyn, Mon) and Anna Turley MP (Lab, Redcar)
- The membership of the **Exiting the European Union Committee** has now also been confirmed as below-
 - Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP
 - Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
 - Maria Caulfield MP

- Joanna Cherry QC MP
 - Jonathan Edwards MP
 - Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
 - Peter Grant MP
 - Andrea Jenkyns MP
 - Jeremy Lefroy MP
 - Rt Hon Peter Lilley MP
 - Karl McCartney MP
 - Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP
 - Craig Mackinlay MP
 - Seema Malhotra MP
 - Dominic Raab MP
 - Emma Reynolds MP
 - Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
 - Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP
 - Sammy Wilson MP
-

Written questions

The answers to written questions can be found by clicking the name of the MP or Lord beneath the title. Members may appear more than once if they have asked several questions on the same topic.

UK exiting the EU

[Julie Elliott MP](#)

[Jo Stevens MP](#)

[Dr Rupa Huq MP](#)

[Jim Cunningham MP](#)

[Danny Kinahan MP](#)

[Dr Rupa Huq MP](#)

[Caroline Lucas MP](#)

[Caroline Lucas MP](#)

Widening access fund

[Catherine West MP](#)

Overseas students

[Lord Beecham](#)

[Stephen Gethins MP](#)

[Dr Rupa Huq MP](#)

[Royston Smith MP](#)

[Ian Murray MP](#)

[Diana Johnson MP](#)

[Louise Ellman MP](#)

[Wes Streeting MP](#)

Student fees and loans

[Baroness Wolf of Dulwich](#)

[Baroness Wolf of Dulwich](#)

[Barry Sheerman MP](#)

[Baroness Wolf of Dulwich](#)

Migrant workers: Research

[Richard Bacon MP](#)

Health professionals: Training

[Lord Browne of Belmont](#)

[Andy Burnham MP](#)

Private education providers

[Barry Sheerman MP](#)

Universities: admissions

[Justin Tomlinson MP](#)

Disabled students allowance

[Lord Addington](#)

[Lord Addington](#)

Sector news

New legislation for technical and further education

The government introduced its Technical and Further Education Bill in Parliament on Thursday 27 October. The Bill formalises the proposal to extend the Institute of Apprenticeships to cover all forms technical and vocational education and will also create protections for students in technical and vocational education if their colleges fail.

[The Technical and Further Education Bill](#)

[Education Secretary's Written Ministerial Statement](#)
