

## **Changes to Higher Education**

Yesterday it was announced that higher education and research will now be split across two different government departments. English universities have become the responsibility of the Department for Education. Research and science will remain in what is now the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (no longer the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills). The Department for Education will now be led by Rt Hon Justine Greening MP and the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will be led by the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP.

[Wonkhe](#) discusses the pros and cons of universities being under the Department for Education. Concerns with the move are primarily around universities becoming distant from science, research and business. On a positive note, it is hoped the move could facilitate better links between schools and universities concerning widening participation.

## **Armed forces**

Earlier this week, Jo Johnson MP announced changes to student funding to benefit armed forces members and their families. Under current rules, a prospective student must be resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of their course, if they are to be eligible for a student loan. The new plans will make it easier for personnel and their families to take up distance learning courses run by UK universities while posted overseas. You can view the announcement [here](#).

## **Skills**

BIS and the Department for Education have released their [Post-16 Skills Plan](#) which was based on the recommendations from the Sainsbury Review of professional and technical education. The plan reveals that students will now have to choose between the 'academic' route to university or the 'technical' route at the age of 16, and will no longer be able to take a mix of academic and vocational qualifications. Instead, there will be options for 'bridging' qualifications between the two separate routes.

## **OFFA**

The Office for Fair Access found that one in five English universities and colleges failed to carry out any evaluation of the effectiveness of their outlay on bursaries, fee waivers and hardship funds during 2014-15. [Spending £50m on access without evaluation 'not acceptable'. \(THE\)](#).

## **HE & Research Bill**

The Higher Education and Research Bill will receive its second reading next Tuesday, 19 July. You can view the progress of the bill [here](#).

## **Science and Technology Committee**

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee has had its evidence session for the inquiry into the impact of Brexit for science and research. The witnesses agreed that the movement of people, as well as funding and regulation needed to be maintained. Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science, accepted that clear and expressive messaging was needed to reassure the science community at home as well as globally. You can view more information [here](#).

This week we submitted Bournemouth University's responses to the [Year 2 TEF consultation](#) and the [DLHE consultation](#).