

Report from the Quality Assessment Committee

Board's primary role in relation to this paper:

- A. Set strategy
- B. Set risk appetite
- C. Oversee performance
- D. Understand context

Purpose

1. The board is kept informed of the work of its Quality Assessment Committee (QAC) by receiving a report on the outcomes of each meeting. This report summarises the outcomes of the QAC meeting held on 11 March 2024.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to:
 - a. Receive the report of the committee.

Quality and standards assessments reporting

3. The Head of Quality and Standards updated the committee on the status of all types of quality assessments currently being planned or undertaken. He also provided an update to the committee on current activity relating to recruitment of external assessors.
4. The committee discussed strategies to recruit external assessors, particularly lead assessors. Members suggested potential changes to increase the public profile of lead assessors' work. The committee agreed that some assessments might appropriately draw on professional services staff at higher education providers, particularly in relation to academic support services, to supplement academic assessors.

Update on student outcomes investigations

1. The Head of Student Outcomes presented on progress with completing the first cycle and plans for the second cycle of student outcomes investigations. Exempt from publication.

2. The committee discussed whether the numerical thresholds used in assessment would be reviewed in future, and how concerns about student outcomes might link in future cycles to assessments of other B conditions.

Inclusion of higher technical qualifications (HTQs) in OfS student outcome measures

3. The Risk Manager, Lifelong Learning Entitlement Team updated the committee on the introduction of a new split indicator for HTQs for students that entered higher education from August 2022 onwards. This update included an explanation of responses to the consultation regarding the split indicator.
4. The committee discussed the numerical threshold that applied to the new split indicator, supporting the continued use of the threshold for other undergraduate at the present.

Update on degree awarding powers

5. The Head of Degree Awarding Powers and University Title presented the committee with a timetable of upcoming degree awarding powers (DAPs) cases and a proposed meeting schedule for 2024.

Discussion of degree awarding powers applications

6. Exempt from publication.
7. Exempt from publication.

Paper publication

5. To be published with the board papers, with the shaded sections redacted due to commercial sensitivities.