

## 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 16 July 2025.

### Recommendations

2. The board is invited to receive the report of the committee.

### Discussion of degree awarding powers applications

3. The Head of Quality and Standards Assessments presented three cases to the committee.
4. Exempt from publication.
5. Exempt from publication.

### Discussion on proposals for an integrated approach to quality assessments

6. The Head of Student Outcomes briefed members on updated proposals for an integrated approach to quality, having last discussed the topic with the committee in May 2025. This reflected material previously presented as a paper at the OfS board meeting on 17 July 2025.
7. The committee noted the DfE's announcement that existing TEF ratings would be used in the process of determining a provider's eligibility for modular funding for the lifelong learning entitlement and that suggestions about further future use of ratings may feature in consultation responses. The committee agreed with the proposal to align TEF outcomes with regulatory requirements and thought the proposals had developed in a sensible way, striking an

appropriate balance in terms of the level of assessment needed and the desired outcomes of the approach. The committee discussed the proposed transition from the 2023 TEF ratings to a rolling assessment process suggested the timing for new awards should be set out in the consultation document.

## **Evaluation of our quality regulation**

8. The OfS Evaluation Manager introduced plans to evaluate the OfS's approach to quality. The committee discussed understanding of quality within the sector and the wider public, the indicators that could be used to evaluate quality, the time horizon of the evaluation and the extent to which wider societal changes could play a role in changes in higher education quality in England.

## **Paper publication**

9. To be published with the board papers with appropriate redactions.