

# hefce UPDATE

A digest of the latest information available from HEFCE

This section of Council Briefing brings together all the latest information issued by HEFCE. It covers events, publications, R&D reports, circular letters, electronic messages, announcements, and updates to the HEFCE web-site.

## Research reports

Copies of the full reports are available on the web-site under Publications/Research and evaluation.

### **Young Participation in Higher Education in the Parliamentary Constituencies of Birmingham Hodge Hill, Bristol South, Nottingham North and Sheffield Brightside**

*October 2007*

Report to HEFCE by the University of the West of England and the School of Education, University of Nottingham

This report is a summary of studies undertaken in four constituencies – Birmingham Hodge Hill, Bristol South, Nottingham North and Sheffield Brightside – to better understand what produces low rates of progression to higher education in the four areas.

### **Higher education in further education colleges: Outcomes of the consultation**

*October 2007*

Professor Gareth Parry and Dr Anne Thompson, University of Sheffield

HEFCE commissioned this report to analyse the responses to the consultation (HEFCE 2006/48). Almost all of the proposals received very strong support.

### **Initial evaluation of the Strategic Development Fund**

*July 2007*

A report to HEFCE by SQW Ltd

HEFCE commissioned an initial evaluation of the Strategic Development Fund in June 2006 which concluded that the fund had been successful to date, making a positive additional contribution to projects. It was too early to make a full assessment of project outcomes, however.

### **The National Student Survey 2006**

*July 2007*

Report to HEFCE by Paula Surridge, University of Bristol

The National Student Survey (NSS) forms part of HEFCE's revised Quality Assurance Framework and surveys final year undergraduates in England, Wales,

## Deadlines

**21 November:** institutions to submit returns to the Higher Education in Further Education: Students Survey 2007-08 (HEFCE 2007/25)

**30 November:** institutions to make submissions to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise

**3 December:** institutions to submit annual monitoring statement, corporate planning statement and financial forecasts if they did not make a submission by the July deadline (HEFCE 2007/10)

**7 December:** responses to the consultation on implementing the withdrawal of funding for students studying for an equivalent or lower qualification (HEFCE 2007/27)

**10 December:** institutions to submit returns to the Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey 2007-08 (HEFCE 2007/26)

Northern Ireland and some institutions in Scotland. HEFCE commissioned Paula Surridge at the University of Bristol to conduct research into the second NSS and identify changes between the two years of results.

### **VAT partial exemption review: review of methodologies for valuing the provision of higher education within the higher education sector for partial exemption purposes**

*July 2007*

A report to HEFCE by KPMG LLP

This review was jointly sponsored by the UK higher education funding councils, working with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the British Universities Finance Directors Group. It examines the possible methods that higher education institutions could use to determine the basis on which to assign residual input tax.

## HEFCE publications

Available in print or on the web-site under Publications. All documents are free.

### 2007/12 Higher education outreach: targeting disadvantaged learners

This document provides guidance on effective ways to target outreach activities for people from communities under-represented in higher education.

### 2007/13 2006-07 statistics derived from ILR data: guide to HEFCE web facility (Web only)

This document is a guide to HEFCE's web facility, which generates several types of analysis from the Learning and Skills Council's Individualised Learner Record.

### 2007/14 Review of performance indicators: outcomes and decisions (Web only)

This review provides the outcome of a review of the performance indicators for higher education. The indicators are produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for the UK funding councils.

### 2007/15 2006-07 statistics derived from HESA data: guide to HEFCE web facility (Web only)

This document is a guide to HEFCE's web facility which generates several types of analysis from HESA student data.

### 2007/16 Who we are and what we do: HEFCE 2007-08

This guide gives an overview of HEFCE and an update on its current activities.

### 2007/17 Higher education-business and community interaction survey: 2004-05 and 2005-06

This report analyses the results of the 2006 higher education-business and community interaction survey for UK higher education institutions. For this year only HEFCE published two years' data, for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

### 2007/18 Regional profiles of higher education 2007 (Web only)

This report – the ninth annual edition of HEFCE's 'Regional profiles of higher education' – sets out a range of data on the pattern of higher education in each of the nine regions in England.

### 2007/19 HEFCE Grant adjustments 2007-08

HEFCE has a funding agreement with each institution that it funds, which specifies targets relating to student numbers. This document explains what action it will take if institutions do not meet their targets for 2007-08.

### 2007/20 Funding higher education in England: how HEFCE allocates its funds

This guide describes the principles that underpin HEFCE's allocations of grants to universities and colleges. It is intended for those working in higher education and for others who wish to understand HEFCE's funding methods.

### 2007/21 Provision of higher education study by location 2005-06 (Web only)

These tables show all students who are registered at institutions in England and are studying for a higher education qualification, by the geographical area in which the learning takes place.

### 2007/22 Strategic Development Fund: updated guidance – 2007 onwards

This guidance on the Strategic Development Fund supersedes HEFCE 2006/15 and details changes in the way the fund operates that were introduced on 1 September 2007.

### 2007/23 Review of the teaching funding method: outcomes of second consultation on changes to the method from 2008-09 (Web only)

The review sets out HEFCE's decisions following the consultation (HEFCE 2007/02).

### 2007/24 EU statistics on public procurement – annual return for calendar year 2006 (Web only)

This document requires all institutions to report the contracts they have awarded in calendar year 2006, in accordance with the European Community's Directives on Public Procurement.

### 2007/25 HEIFES07: Higher Education in Further Education: Students Survey 2007-08

This document asks further education colleges to complete the annual survey of students on recognised higher education courses.

### 2007/26 HESES07: Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey 2007-08

This document asks higher education institutions to complete the annual survey of students on recognised higher education courses.

### 2007/27 Withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs): consultation on implementation

See article on page 2.

### 2007/28 PhD research degrees update: entry and completion (Web only)

See article on page 11.

### 2007/29 Research degree qualification rates (Web only)

See article on page 11.

## Circular letters

Available in print or on the web-site, under Publications/Circular letters.

### CL 17/2007 Update on developments in Teaching Quality Information for HE delivered in FECs

This letter updates institutions on the development of teaching quality information for higher education delivered in further education colleges (HE in FECs); and provides additional information on the extension of the NSS and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey to include students studying HE in FECs.

### CL 18/2007 Freedom of information and HEFCE's institutional risk assessments

This letter briefs higher education institutions on the implications of the Freedom of Information Act for HEFCE's institutional risk assessments and Assurance Service reports.

### CL 19/2007 Access to the 2007 National Student Survey results and launch of the Unistats web-site

This letter provides information to institutions on how to access their 2007 NSS results. It also details plans for the launch of the

## Events

### HEFCE Annual Meeting 2007

School of Oriental and African Studies, Brunei Gallery,  
Russell Square, London

16 November 2007

Meeting for HEI chairs of governing bodies and anyone with an interest in higher education to discuss developments in higher education and present the current activities of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

For further details contact Kathryn Mills on 0117 931 7035 or e-mail [k.mills@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:k.mills@hefce.ac.uk)

### Excellence in higher education: internal audit

Royal College of Physicians, Regents Park, London, NW1  
28 November 2007

HEFCE is hosting a one-day event for internal auditors in higher education institutions in England. The event is timed to help with the Council's consultation on the new financial memorandum and audit code, which are both due to take effect from 1 August 2008.

HEFCE Chief Executive Professor David Eastwood will open the event by setting the policy context and discussing the changing nature of the risks facing the sector. Most of the day will be taken up with workshops, including one chaired by Professor Andrew Chambers, a prominent figure in internal audit circles.

Further details and a booking form are on the Council of Higher Education Internal Auditors' web-site at <http://cheia.squarespace.com/cheia-news>

or from Bernard Dromgoole, 0117 931 7060,  
[b.dromgoole@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:b.dromgoole@hefce.ac.uk)

**CL 23/2007 Birthday 2008 Honours list [Letter not available]**

### CL 24/2007 Evaluation of the effectiveness and role of third stream funding

A briefing on an important evaluation of 'third stream' funding – that funding intended to support higher education institutions in responding to the needs of business and the wider community – which HEFCE is undertaking in conjunction with DIUS.

### CL 25/2007 Online survey on the impact of league tables on institutional behaviour

An invitation to participate in a survey of English higher education institutions on the impact of league tables on institutional behaviour.

### CL 26/2007 Leadership, Governance and Management Fund: £10 million new funding 2007-10

This letter informs institutions that the fund has received further funding and invites applications.

### CL 27/2007 Higher education in further education colleges: implementation of HEFCE policy

This letter informs institutions how HEFCE will implement its policy for supporting higher education in further education colleges and invites colleges to express an interest in participating in piloting the process it is developing for colleges' higher education strategies.

## RAE publications

Available on the web at [www.rae.ac.uk](http://www.rae.ac.uk)

## Electronic mailing list (admin-hefce)

This list is used to send information on minor procedural changes, announcements, and news about the latest publications on the web-site.

Anyone can join or leave admin-hefce at any time from the Jiscmail site: [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/admin-hefce](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/admin-hefce)

### EP 03/2007 Exchequer interests: update on progress

This electronic publication (EP) outlines next steps in implementing a new system for exchequer interests for HEFCE-funded higher education institutions.

new 'Unistats' site, which replaces the existing Teaching Quality Information (TQI) web-site.

### CL 20/2007 HEFCE Communications with governors

At the 2006 HEFCE annual meeting, chairs of HE governing bodies expressed a desire for improved communications between themselves and HEFCE. This letter sets out what HEFCE will do.

### CL 21/2007 Arrangements for the capital investment framework

This circular letter outlines the arrangements for higher education institutions to make submissions for assessment under the capital investment framework and reports on the outcomes of the pilot exercise.

### CL 22/2007 HEFCE's Accounts Direction to higher education institutions for 2007-08 financial statements

This letter outlines four changes in HEFCE's Accounts Direction to higher education institutions on preparing their financial statements for 2007-08.

To join admin-hefce, send an e-mail message to [jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk). Leave the subject field blank, and in the body of the message put:

Join admin-hefce [first name last name]

For example: Join admin-hefce Jane Brown

To leave admin-hefce, send a similar e-mail, but in the body of the message put:

Leave admin-hefce

## Announcements/press releases

Available on the web-site under News and events.

### HEFCE welcomes increase in HEIF funding

10 October 2007

HEFCE welcomes the confirmation by the Government that funding for the fourth round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) will rise to a final year allocation of £150 million for 2010-11.

### Sainsbury Review welcomed by HEFCE

5 October 2007

HEFCE has welcomed the publication of Lord Sainsbury's review of science and innovation.

### Higher education survey reveals continued student satisfaction

12 September 2007

The third annual National Student Survey shows students have a high and sustained level of satisfaction with their experience of higher education.

### Improved access to HE research

26 July 2007

An online database of research into higher education has been made publicly available for the first time.

### Research commissioned on university league tables

24 July 2007

HEFCE has commissioned research to throw light on newspaper league tables of higher education institutions, how they are compiled and the impact they have on institutions' reputations and behaviour.

### Better HE performance indicators

19 July 2007

The ninth set of UK higher education performance indicators, shows improvements in widening participation and lower drop-out rates.

## Updates to the web-site

The following updates or additions have been made to the HEFCE web-site.

### Inherited staff liabilities

Local education authorities were asked to complete an outturn statement to receive reimbursement for inherited staff liabilities.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Finance & assurance/Finance and funding/Inherited staff liability*

### POLAR – Pilot exercise

HEFCE is considering ways of extending the information provided through POLAR and ran a pilot exercise to test the usefulness of local statistics about the nature of entrants.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Widening participation/POLAR and participation rates*

### Annual report and accounts

HEFCE's annual report and accounts for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under About us/HEFCE's Board/HEFCE Board papers/2007*

### Small and Specialist Institution Review Group Panel

HEFCE is reviewing the nature of its support for small and specialist institutions.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Learning & teaching/Funding/Teaching funding method review/Small and specialist review*

### Diploma Development Partnerships

A new section to help Diploma Development Partnerships engage with organisations and institutions in the HE sector when developing diplomas.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Widening participation/14-19 education and skills/Diploma Development Partnerships*

### Self-assessment of people management practices – HEI feedback

Forty-four HEIs self-assessed their people management practices in 2007. A summary of findings is available.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Leadership, governance & management/Human resources management/Rewarding and developing staff/Self-assessment tool*

### Shared services

A new section on HEFCE's approach to shared services in the HE sector.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under Finance & assurance/Shared services*

### HEFCE's Accountability Framework

Description of HEFCE processes to ensure it is accountable for the money it administers on the Government's behalf.

*www.hefce.ac.uk under About us/How HEFCE is accountable for the funds it administers*

## Board business

Details of HEFCE's Board members and how the Board conducts its business are available on the HEFCE web-site under About us/HEFCE's Board.

Papers that are brought before the Board for consideration are posted on the site three weeks after the relevant meeting.

The next Board meeting is on 22 November 2007.

## Further details

Most of the information listed in this Update is available on the web-site at [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk) under Publications.

To order publications, contact Kathryn Mills, tel 0117 931 7035, e-mail [publications@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:publications@hefce.ac.uk)

For all other enquiries, contact the helpdesk on 0117 931 7438, e-mail [hefce@hefce.ac.uk](mailto:hefce@hefce.ac.uk)