

Independent Review of the TEF

Jon Forster

- Required by Section 26 of Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA)
- Secretary of State for Education appointed Dame Shirley Pearce (former VC Loughborough) as the independent reviewer.
- Dame Shirley is required to prepare a report on the operation of TEF and submit it to the Secretary of State as soon as possible after 1 January 2019.
- Submission expected in Summer 2019
- Secretary of State must lay report before Parliament and consider recommendations.

Advisory Panel

- **Morag Bell** (Former pV-C, Loughborough)
- **Amanda Chetwynd** (Provost, Lancaster)
- **Amatey Doku** (VP, NUS)
- **Jon Forster** (Maths, Southampton)
- **Maggie Galliers**
- **Stephen Isherwood**
- **Jonathan Nicholls** (Secretary, OU)
- **Helen Parker**
- **Anna Vignoles** (Education, Cambridge)

Terms of reference in HERA (paraphrased)

1. the process by which ratings are determined and the sources of statistical information used,
2. whether these are fit for use for the purpose of determining ratings
3. the names of the ratings and whether those names are appropriate,
4. the impact of the scheme on the ability of providers to carry out their functions (including in particular their functions relating to teaching and research),
5. an assessment of whether the scheme is in the public interest, and
6. any other matters that Dame Shirley considers relevant.

Process and Methodology

- Call for views (closed on March 1)
- Listening sessions – a programme of sessions that coincide with the call for views period to hear a wide range of views in person
- Commissions
 - analysis of the consultation responses
 - analysis of the statistics used by TEF
 - measuring of burden/VfM
 - how stakeholders use TEF (Employers, Applicants)
 - research into international perceptions

Interaction with other TEF developments

- The Independent Review will have no impact on the current round of provider-level TEF (TEF Year Four) to be published by the OfS in June 2019. The Review will be able to make recommendations in relation to the system for subsequent provider-level ratings.
- The Independent Review will be developing its recommendations at the same time as the second year of pilots for subject-level TEF. The pilot findings will be available by summer 2019 and will then influence the design of the final version of subject-level TEF.
- The recommendations of the Independent Review should also be available at that time, and influence the TEF's final design.
- The OfS is planning to move to full implementation of subject-level TEF in academic year 2019/20 (TEF Year Five) with first outcomes of subject-level TEF in spring 2021.