



Mapping the Regulatory Landscape for Higher Education in England

Introduction

This package is intended to give governors and staff an overview of student-related regulation in English higher education. There are a series of slides that give a graphic summary of the relation of government departments, regulatory agencies, and university obligations. These are supported by a number of tables (in an Excel workbook) which give a more granular account of the details behind the graphical summaries.

Slides

1. *Higher Education Regulation in England – overall structure and primary responsibilities*

Shows the key structural elements involved in English HE regulation along with their primary responsibilities:

Government develops policy

Government Agencies translate policy into regulation and monitor compliance

Universities are accountable for quality and compliance with regulations

The slide also shows additional players such as Professional Bodies (who have their own specific requirements and regulations) and Sector-Owned Bodies (e.g. HESA, Advance HE) who help Universities by facilitating accountability returns and providing advice on regulatory compliance.

2. *Government departments and agencies – High Level Overview*

Shows the government agencies involved in HE regulation and the government departments to which they report.

3. *Regulatory Agencies reporting to the Department of Education*

Breaks down Slide 2 to show the main functions and responsibilities of the agencies reporting to the Department of Education.

4. *Regulatory Agencies reporting to other Government Departments*

Breaks down Slide 2 to show the main functions and responsibilities of the agencies reporting to other government departments.

5. *Relation of Regulatory Agencies to different areas of Academic Provision*
This slide shows the relation of different types of academic provision to regulatory agencies. So, for instance, a University with a portfolio that is confined to e.g. business, humanities, and/or science would only report to the Office for Students. However, if a University also delivers Medicine, Health Professions, Initial Teacher Training, or Degree Apprenticeships they are subject to regulation by a variety of other regulators, as well as still being subject to general OfS regulation.
6. *Office for Students Conditions of Registration – High Level Overview*
Sets out the high level conditions A-G of the OfS Conditions of Registration. More detail is provided in Table 2.
7. *Timing of Accountability Returns which require significant university input*
Shows the timing of the main accountability returns required from higher education providers. There are other returns (e.g. Graduate Outcomes, NSS) which are survey-based and are undertaken by OfS/HESA (or others) using data supplied by universities. Some areas of regulation also require year-round transactional reporting e.g. higher education providers are required to report non-attendance of international students to UKVI.

Explanatory Tables

1. *Details of Regulatory Functions in England*
This is a large table that provides the underlying detail behind slides 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. It shows:
 - Government Department
 - Regulatory Body
 - Regulatory Function (e.g. maintaining a Register of Providers, promoting equal opportunities)
 - How the Regulatory Body carries out the function
 - Accountability return used for monitoring and/or how regulation is monitored
 - Timing of Accountability return(s)
2. *Detailed breakdown of OfS Conditions of Registration including how they are monitored*
Provides the sub-conditions for each of the high level conditions shown in Slide 6, along with a summary of the requirement and the way in which it is monitored.

3. *OfS General Monitoring – Lead Indicators, Reportable Events, Whistleblowing, Random Sampling*

A list of the lead indicators and other forms of evidence used by OfS to monitor higher education providers' compliance with the Conditions of Registration.

4. *Details of the main Accountability returns required by OfS*

This table describes the purpose and nature of some of the returns shown in Slide 7 e.g. for HESA Student (aka Data Futures) it unpacks the HESA acronym, summarises the scope and detail of the return, and gives examples of what it is used for.

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August 2024*