

**Department for Education Board Meeting**

**18 January 2024, 9:30 – 12:20**

**Member Attendees**

Richard Pennycook  
Susan Acland-Hood  
Stuart McMinnies  
Toby Peyton-Jones  
Sir Peter Bazalgette  
Jane Cunliffe  
Justin Russell

**Title**

Lead Non-Executive Board Member (Chair)  
Permanent Secretary  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Chief Operating Officer  
Director General, Families

**Presenters**

Alex Marsh  
Roger Coates  
Patrick Curry  
Tom Lee  
Jonathan Furay  
Leanna Green  
Robin James  
Anne Spinali  
Paul Baker  
Emily Knowles

**Title**

Director, School Analysis, System, and Strategy  
Deputy Director, Accountability  
Director, Higher Education Oversight  
Lifelong Loan Entitlement Lead  
Head of Governance and ALB Risk Management  
Director, Central Operations Directorate  
ALB Sponsorship Team Lead  
Director, Strategic Finance  
Deputy Director, Central Strategic Finance  
Strategic Delivery Adviser

**Other Attendees**

Rt Hon Damian Hinds  
Julia Kinniburgh  
Juliet Chua  
John Edwards  
Tom Stephens  
Patrick Berkeley  
Anna Haynes  
Lynne Brumpton

**Title**

Minister of State for Schools  
Director General, Skills  
Director General, Schools  
Director General, Regions  
Deputy Director, Strategy Unit  
Permanent Secretary's Private Office  
Board Secretariat Officer  
Interim Board Secretariat Lead

**Apologies**

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan  
Baroness Barran  
  
Jack Boyer  
Tony Foot

**Title**

Secretary of State for Education  
Minister for the Board and Minister for the School  
System and Finance  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Director General, Strategy

## **1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES, AND ACTION TRACKER**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting, noting apologies from the Secretary of State, Baroness Barran, Jack Boyer, and Tony Foot.
- 1.2 There were no new or changed conflicts of interest and the minutes and action tracker of the previous meeting were approved.

## **2. OFFICE FOR STANDARDS IN EDUCATION (OFSTED) UPDATE**

- 2.1 The Board received an update on the Department's approach and next steps for Ofsted following the recent appointment of His Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) of Education, Sir Martyn Oliver, and the findings of the coroner following the inquest into the death of Ruth Perry.
- 2.2 Board members discussed the responses of Ofsted and the Department to the death of Ruth Perry. Members also noted the opportunities arising from the HMCI's 'Big Listen'.
- 2.3 Board members also highlighted the importance of close workings between the Department and Ofsted.

## **3. LIFELONG LOAN ENTITLEMENT (LLE)**

- 3.1 The Board received an update of the progress to launch the LLE.
- 3.2 Board members discussed the key risks facing the LLE and highlighted the need to work collaboratively across the sector to deliver the LLE.
- 3.3 Board members also discussed the role of other organisations in the education sector in successfully delivering and achieving the LLE.

## **4. ARM'S-LENGTH BODIES (ALBS) ALB GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT**

- 4.1 The Board received an update of the Department's oversight and governance arrangements for its ALBs.
- 4.2 Board members discussed the level of oversight of ALBs at executive and non-executive levels.
- 4.3 The Non-Executive Board Members agreed to work more closely with the ALBs upon their request.

## **5. DEPARTMENTAL FINANCE AND BUSINESS PLANNING UPDATE**

5.1 The Board received an update of the Department's financial position and departmental business planning.

5.2 Board members discussed maximising value for money through the Department's business planning, with prioritisation exercises across the Department's budgets.

## **6. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE, DELIVERY, AND RISK UPDATE**

6.1 The Board received an update of the Department's performance against the Secretary of State's priorities, including Major Projects activity and the Top Tier Risk Register.

6.2 Board members discussed school attendance and the skills offer for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

6.3 Board members also discussed teacher recruitment and Special Educational Needs and Disability school provision.

## **7. AOB**

7.1 No further items were raised as part of any other business.

7.2 The meeting closed at 12:20.