



House of Commons
Education Committee

Appointment of the Chair of the Office for Students

Sixth Report of Session 2016–17



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*Report, together with formal minutes relating
to the report*

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 21 February 2017*

The Education Committee

The Education Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Education and its associated public bodies.

Current membership

[Neil Carmichael MP](#) (*Conservative, Stroud*) (Chair)

[Lucy Allan MP](#) (*Conservative, Telford*)

[Ian Austin MP](#) (*Labour, Dudley North*)

[Michelle Donelan MP](#) (*Conservative, Chippenham*)

[Marion Fellows MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Motherwell and Wishaw*)

[Suella Fernandes MP](#) (*Conservative, Fareham*)

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[Catherine McKinnell MP](#) (*Labour, Newcastle upon Tyne North*)

[Ian Mearns MP](#) (*Labour, Gateshead*)

[William Wragg MP](#) (*Conservative, Hazel Grove*)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

Committee reports are published on the Committee's website at www.parliament.uk/education-committee and in print by Order of the House.

Evidence relating to this report is published on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Richard Ward (Clerk), Jack Dent (Second Clerk), Charlie Eastaugh (Assistant Clerk), Anna Connell-Smith (Committee Specialist), Nancy Wilkinson (Committee Specialist), Jonathan Arkless (Senior Committee Assistant), Simon Armitage (Committee Assistant), Gary Calder (Senior Media Officer), and Alex Gore (Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Education Committee, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 1376; the Committee's email address is educom@parliament.uk.

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1 The recruitment process

Background

1. The Office for Students (OfS) is a new public body, formed to regulate the higher education market. Its creation is subject to the passing of the Higher Education and Research Bill 2016.

2. According to the May 2016 White Paper, *Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*, the OfS will be formed by a merger between the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).¹ The paper proposes that the OfS will be in operation for the 2018/19 academic year as a non-departmental public body:

We will establish a new market regulator, the Office for Students (OfS) that operates on behalf of students and tax payers to support a competitive environment and promote choice, quality and value for money. In doing so we will put students at the heart of how higher education is regulated. The OfS will be explicitly pro-student choice, a champion of transparency, and will make sure that a high quality higher education experience is available for students from all backgrounds.²

3. The Higher Education and Research Bill was presented on 19 May 2016. The Bill implements the legislative proposals of the White Paper. It comprises four parts, the first of which establishes the OfS as a new body and includes details on its structure and its general duties. It also creates a new single entry system for all HE providers.

4. On 19 October 2016, the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Justine Greening MP, wrote to the Chair to inform him of the creation of the OfS. The Secretary of State explained that in order for the organisation to be ready to carry out its duties in 2018, the Government wished to recruit some of the key leadership posts in parallel to the passage of the Bill. The letter included the recruitment pack for the Chair of the OfS and invited us to undertake a pre-appointment hearing.

5. The role was advertised from 27 October 2016 via press release and was advertised on the Cabinet Office Centre for Public Appointments website and the websites of the Guardian, the Economist and Times Higher Education. The advert also appeared in print in the Guardian, the Economist and the Times Higher Education.

6. The selection panel was chaired by Olivia Grant (Public Appointments Assessor) and comprised Ruth Hannant (Director of Higher Education Reform, Department for Education), Nicola Dandridge (Chief Executive of Universities UK), Lord David Currie (Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority) and Neil Carberry (Director for People and Skills at the CBI).

7. On 22 November the deadline for applications was extended to 1 December and the Chair subsequently agreed to accept two late applications from candidates.

1 Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, [*Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*](#), May 2016, p 15

2 [*Success as a Knowledge Economy: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*](#), p 63

8. Thirty-nine applications for the post were received, from which ten candidates were shortlisted for interview. Subsequently, one candidate withdrew ahead of interview. Nine candidates were interviewed on 11 and 12 January 2017. The panel recommended four appointable candidates. Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, met with each of the appointable candidates and the name of the preferred candidate was passed to the Prime Minister's office.

9. Sir Michael Barber was announced as the Government's preferred candidate on 7 February 2017.

2 The position of the Chair

Role and person specification

10. The Chair is an appointment made by the Secretary of State for a term of four years. The job advert for Chair states that it is seeking a candidate who has “substantial experience of senior leadership in a large and complex organisation” and “a track record of managing corporate change, particularly establishing a new organisation or leading a restructure, and setting strategic direction in this context”. The description asks for candidates who can “demonstrate an understanding of how to promote social mobility” and have an “appreciation of how to work effectively with Government or as a regulator”.

Box 1: Job description for Chair

Person Specification

The successful candidate had to demonstrate how they met the following essential criteria in their application:

- Substantial experience of senior leadership in a large and complex organisation.
- A track record of managing corporate change, particularly establishing a new organisation or leading a restructure, and setting strategic direction in this context.
- Excellent communication and influencing skills to build relationships across the sector and command the respect of the diverse range of higher education providers, as well as students and employers.
- An appreciation of how to work effectively with Government or as a regulator.
- Demonstrate strategic thinking and sound judgement as well as influencing skills to promote the interests of the OfS and pursue strategic opportunities.
- Candidates will demonstrate experience and understanding that covers one or more of business, higher education, regulation or Government.
- Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of how to promote social mobility.

Role profile

The successful candidate would have a proven record of successful leadership and a commitment to delivering excellence in higher education. He or she must be highly credible with a reputation for integrity.

The Chair of the OfS is appointed by the Secretary of State for Education and will:

- Take a leading role in the formation of the OfS including advising Ministers on the recruitment and selection of the non-executive board and the key executive positions of Chief Executive and Director for Fair Access and Participation, ensuring they incorporate a range of experience noted in the Bill and reflect the diversity of the sector.
- Work with the Chief Executive, and appropriate partners to develop a new organisational design and culture for the OfS and manage the transition from current arrangements to the OfS.
- In conjunction with Ministers, the Chief Executive and the board, develop the OfS' strategic direction and policies.
- Build effective relationships with partners and engage with the academic and business community, Government departments, Parliament as well as other public, private and third sector partners to establish the OfS as a credible and effective independent market regulator.
- Oversee the OfS in the successful pursuit of its objectives, providing the strategic leadership, direction, and vision necessary to achieve its aims as an independent regulator promoting student choice and competition.
- Work closely with the Chief Executive to set the strategic direction of the OfS on an ongoing basis and deliver an effective and efficient organisation through robust financial management and governance.
- Develop lasting and strategic opportunities with UK Research and Innovation and other public bodies to share data and work together on areas of common interest.

Source: Department for Education

Sir Michael Barber, the Government's preferred candidate

11. The Government's preferred candidate, Sir Michael Barber, has over 30 years' experience in education and Government. Since 2011 he has been Chief Education Advisor to Pearson. Before this he was the Department for International Development's (DfID) special representative on education in Pakistan and Head of McKinsey's Global Education Practice. From 2001–2005 he was Head of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. Sir Michael has also held posts as Professor of Education at Keele University and the Institute for Education, University of London. Sir Michael's CV is appended to this report.

12. In line with the guidance drawn up by the Liaison Committee on the conduct of pre-appointment hearings, our questioning sought to test Sir Michael's professional competence and personal independence. We explored the following areas with Sir Michael:

- Role of the Chair and the candidate's priorities
- The creation of the Office for Students and its role
- His experience working in the higher education sector
- The expansion of choice and competition in the higher education market
- The Office for Student's relationship with UK Research and Innovation
- The introduction of the teaching excellence framework
- The future of the higher education sector

13. The breadth of Sir Michael's experience puts him in a strong position to establish and chair the Office for Students. We hope that he will bring his knowledge of global education systems to bear in aid of higher education in England at a time of significant change leading up to and following the UK's exit from the European Union.

14. In establishing the OfS, Sir Michael should have particular regard for the development of the organisation's relationship with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). We were encouraged by his comments on creating an environment where excellence can be achieved, but remain to be convinced of the attractiveness of a bronze rating in the TEF. Sir Michael will need to consider the risks to students and the sector of an increase in alternative providers. We look forward to hearing from Sir Michael and the new Chief Executive on the progress made in anticipation of the OfS's formal establishment in 2018, subject to passage of the Bill.

15. **We endorse Sir Michael Barber's appointment as Chair of the Office for Students.**

Appendix 1: Posts which are subject to pre-appointment hearings before the Education Committee

HM Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills

Children's Commissioner for England

Chief Regulator for Ofqual

Chair of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission

Chair of the Office for Students

Appendix 2: Correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Chair

Letter dated 19 October 2016 from the Secretary of State to the Chair

You will be aware that through the Higher Education and Research Bill currently before the House, the Government proposes to create the Office for Students, a new public body to regulate the higher education market. This new body and its new mission is at the heart of an ambitious reform programme which recognises that the higher education landscape has changed fundamentally since the last major legislative reforms of 1992, and seeks to ensure the university system is ready for the future and can fulfil its potential and sustain its global standing.

Subject of course to successful passage of the Bill, we intend that this body will lead the creation of a level playing field for new providers and increase competition in the system. It will transform the sector's ability to respond to economic demands and the rapidly changing graduate employment landscape, and ensure that the country remains attractive internationally for decades to come. I was glad to see when I introduced the Bill at Second Reading that you welcomed the addition of Higher Education to the portfolio of my department. I think we share a view of the potential benefits this can bring both HE institutions and most importantly students.

The first Chair of the OfS will lead the body through set up into its crucial early years, setting a vision for the future and holding the executive team to account for delivery. As such this is an extremely important role and I am writing to you to set out our plans for recruitment and our vision for the person we are looking for. Enclosed with this letter I have included our draft advertisement for the role as well as the role specification.

We know from the experience of establishing other organisations that the early recruitment of the Chair and a subsequent prompt appointment of the Chief Executive are crucial to a successful set up of a new public body. I want the executive leadership of this body in post so that the new organisation is fully ready to carry out its functions on its inception in 2018. Therefore we plan to recruit to some of the key leadership posts in parallel to the passage of the Bill to help build the vision for the organisation and form relationships with key stakeholders, including students and the sector more widely. The Chair, CEO and the Director of Fair Access and Participation are Ministerial appointments and will be recruited in a series of overlapping campaigns, regulated by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments. Assuming safe passage of the Bill, they will formally transfer to the new body once it is established in law. To begin this process my department will launch the recruitment campaign for the Chair role next week on Thursday 27th October.

My colleague the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation Jo Johnson recently confirmed our intention to invite your Committee to be involved in the selection process for the Chair role. Our proposal is that the Committee undertake pre-appointment scrutiny for the Chair position given that he or she has the responsibility for leading the body. This is an approach which is consistent with the usual practice for sector regulators such as OfCOM, OfWAT and OfGEM and follows the precedent of the current arrangements for HEFCE.

Providing you with the recruitment pack is the first step in this process and I would also like to invite the Committee to undertake a pre-appointment hearing once I have chosen a preferred candidate. I will ask my officials to contact your clerk to explore suitable dates. We would expect the hearing to take place in December or January.

I am grateful for your consideration of this proposal and look forward to the Committee's involvement in this very important role. I am sure you will share my high expectations of the positive benefits that the OfS and this role can bring to the Higher Education sector.

I have written to you separately regarding the Committee's recent request that I consider extending pre-appointment scrutiny to the roles of Ofqual and Ofsted Chair. It is worth noting that the governance structure of the OfS is different to that of Ofqual and Ofsted. The OfS is being structured on a governance model that is akin to the economic regulators, where decisions will be made by the OfS board. There will not be a role of Chief Inspector or Chief Regulator in the way there is for the other bodies, and so it would be more appropriate for the OfS Chair to be subject to pre-appointment scrutiny than an executive member of the organisation.

Letter dated 6 February 2016 from the Secretary of State to the Chair

I wrote to you on 20th October last year to confirm our plans to recruit the first Chair of the Office for Students, which is being established in law by the Higher Education and Research Bill. We agreed at that point that the Committee would wish to hold a pre-appointment hearing once we have a preferred candidate for the role. I can confirm that the recruitment process has now completed and I am pleased to put forward my preferred candidate, Sir Michael Barber, for the Committee's consideration.

I have chosen Sir Michael as the preferred candidate because of his impressive track record in leading and supporting public sector delivery and his understanding and commitment to the opportunities presented for the higher education sector through the creation of the Office for Students and the associated reforms.

Sir Michael has a deep understanding of education systems including higher education. Aside from his own academic experience in universities here and abroad he has extensive experience of advising international Governments on education reform, including in Higher Education, and has worked with many universities including two years advising a network of US public universities on admissions and graduation rates. He has been a member of three University Councils and was a member of the Browne Review of HE funding.

Sir Michael has an excellent grasp of what it takes to deliver in the public sector from his experience within and outside Government. He set up and led the Standards and the Effectiveness Unit in the DfE in 1997 and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in No 10 from 2001. In his subsequent private sector career, he has worked internationally in supporting better public sector delivery working directly with Prime Ministers and other Government leaders.

He also has been responsible for the establishment of a number of new organisations including the new Hackney Education Authority, the aforementioned Standards and the Effectiveness Unit at DfE and Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the US Education Delivery Institute.

Finally, he also has the track record to be a successful chair, with non- executive leadership experience within Government, for example as a member of the Ministry of Justice Board and outside, for example as Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Education.

In light of his skills, knowledge and experience I am confident that Sir Michael would make an excellent first Chair of the OfS.

Appendix 3: Details of the recruitment process

Job advertisement

Chair of the Office for Students - £60,000 - London and Bristol

Time commitment—two days per week

Contract - 4 years, subject to performance

The creation of the Office for Students (OfS) through the Higher Education and Research Bill represents one of the most significant reforms to the regulation and oversight of higher education in England. The OfS will have responsibility for operating a new regulatory framework that puts the interests of students at the heart of the system, with a strong focus on promoting choice and competition in the provision of higher education. The role of the OfS is set out in more detail in the Government's White Paper, 'Success as a Knowledge Economy'.

The Secretary of State is seeking to appoint a Chair who can provide strong leadership and insight to the OfS. Working with the Board and Ministers, the Chair will provide strategic direction, support and challenge to the CEO and the executive team.

This pivotal role as the first Chair of the OfS offers the opportunity to make a real and tangible contribution to the Government's wider commitment to raising standards in education and improving social mobility. Candidates will have held senior public or private sector positions and possibly some non-executive roles. Educational and/or regulatory experience is desirable.

Person Specification

The successful candidate had to demonstrate how they met the following essential criteria in their application:

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- Excellent communication and influencing skills to build relationships across the sector and command the respect of the diverse range of higher education providers, as well as students and employers.
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- Demonstrate strategic thinking and sound judgement as well as influencing skills to promote the interests of the OfS and pursue strategic opportunities.
- Candidates will demonstrate experience and understanding that covers one or more of business, higher education, regulation or Government.
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Role profile

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- Take a leading role in the formation of the OfS including advising Ministers on the recruitment and selection of the non-executive board and the key executive positions of Chief Executive and Director for Fair Access and Participation, ensuring they incorporate a range of experience noted in the Bill and reflect the diversity of the sector.
- Work with the Chief Executive, and appropriate partners to develop a new organisational design and culture for the OfS and manage the transition from current arrangements to the OfS.
- In conjunction with Ministers, the Chief Executive and the board, develop the OfS' strategic direction and policies.
- Build effective relationships with partners and engage with the academic and business community, Government departments, Parliament as well as other public, private and third sector partners to establish the OfS as a credible and effective independent market regulator.
- Oversee the OfS in the successful pursuit of its objectives, providing the strategic leadership, direction, and vision necessary to achieve its aims as an independent regulator promoting student choice and competition.
- Work closely with the Chief Executive to set the strategic direction of the OfS on an ongoing basis and deliver an effective and efficient organisation through robust financial management and governance.
- Develop lasting and strategic opportunities with UK Research and Innovation and other public bodies to share data and work together on areas of common interest.

Remuneration

- The Chair will receive an honorarium of £60,000 per annum for a time commitment of 2 days per week.
- Remuneration is taxable under Schedule E and subject to Class I National Insurance contributions. It is not pensionable.
- The Chair will also be eligible to claim expenses for travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred on OfS business.

Recruitment panel

The selection panel comprised of Olivia Grant (Public Appointments Assessor and Chair of Panel), Ruth Hannant (Director of Higher Education Reform, Department for Education) and three independent members: Nicola Dandridge (Chief Executive of Universities UK), Lord David Currie (Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority) and Neil Carberry (Director for People and Skills at the CBI).

Outcome of recruitment panel

Table 1: Outcome of recruitment process

Applications received	39
Applications shortlisted	10
Candidates interviewed	9 (one candidate dropped out prior to interview)
Candidates considered appointable	4

Source: Department for Education

The OfS Chair competition was launched on 27 October 2016 via press release and was advertised on the Cabinet Office Centre for Public Appointments website and the websites of: The Guardian, The Economist and Times Higher Education. The advert also appeared in print in The Guardian, The Economist and The Times Higher Education and received some attention through social media. The closing date was advertised as 24 November 2016.

On 22 November the deadline was extended with the agreement of the Minister and the panel Chair to 1st December and this was updated on the websites mentioned above. The chair subsequently agreed to accept 2 late applications from candidates. Interviews were conducted on 11 and 12 January 2017

Diversity information

The diversity of the field during the competitions is set out below.

Table 1: Diversity of candidates

	Number of applicants	Shortlist	Appointable candidates
Candidates	39	10	4
Male	28	7	3
Female	11	3	1
Black, Asian and mixed Minority Ethnic background	12	1	0
Declared disability (diversity questionnaire or Interview Access Scheme form)	2	0	0

Source: Department for Education

Appendix 4: Details of the candidate

The candidate's CV was provided by the Department to the Committee.

Sir Michael Barber

Experience and Achievements

Co-Chair Centre for Public Impact, Boston Consulting Group

2015 to date

Co-Chair of The Boston Consulting Group, not-for profit foundation, dedicated to improving the positive impact.

Founder and Chairman, Delivery Associates Ltd.

2013 to date

Heading up a team of Global Leaders in public sector strategy and implementation

Working with Governments worldwide to implement government reform and ensuring delivery.

Chief Education Advisor, Pearson PLC and Chairman of Pearson Affordable Learning Fund

2011 to date

Leading Pearson's worldwide programme of research into education policy, efficacy and innovations in education and advising on the development of products and services that build on the research findings.

Leading Pearson's strategy for education in the poorest sectors of the world, particularly in fast-growing developing economies

Leading and developing Pearson's global efficacy strategy to improve outcomes for learners using all of Pearson's products and services.

DfID's Special Representative on Education in Pakistan

2009–2015

Overseeing radical and successful reform of the Punjab education system—visited Pakistan over 30 times.

Expert Partner, McKinsey and Company and Head of McKinsey's Global Education Practice

2005–2011

Serving public sector clients including a major US city, two large US states, several UK government departments and agencies and governments of several other countries in Europe and Asia

Building the knowledge and capability of McKinsey's global public sector practice

Promoting understanding of the principles of reform of the public sector around the world through publications and presentations

Offering advice to senior politicians and officials in a number of countries.

Main Achievements:

Leading the creation of McKinsey's global education practice and serving governments on education reform in four continents (including a strategy for the State of Ohio), new approaches to leadership and development and accountability in the UK, an entire system redesign for a Middle East country and collaboration with the World Bank on Chile's education reform

Founder of the US Education Delivery Institute, a not-for profit based in Washington DC with a mission to assist states in delivering successful education reform

Leading the creation of McKinsey's Centre for Government Reform, assisting governments with delivering results in periods of austerity.

Head of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister on Delivery (in 2004–5 c. 40 people; £4 million operating budget; influence over impact of over £300 billion)

2001–2005

Advising the Prime Minister and reporting to him regularly on the implementation of reform and delivery of results across the key public services of Education, Health, Crime, Asylum and Transport

Ensuring that in each of those key public services, government departments put in place systems which resulted in delivery of significantly improved outcomes

Monitoring the progress of reform across the key public services and helping to solve problems as they emerge

Leading and managing the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit which involved an innovative combination of staff from public sector and business backgrounds.

Main Achievements:

Bringing a new consistency and clarity to the pursuit of the Prime Minister's key priorities

Establishing a vision, creating a conceptual framework and designing a process which gave new urgency, focus and ambition to the government's key public service reform priorities

Building effective relationships with the relevant ministers and senior officials, including a strong partnership with the Treasury, so that the vision of effective delivery became firmly established

Enabling rapid improvement in the planning, organisation and culture of delivery in four government departments

Contributing to real progress on delivery across health, education, crime, asylum and transport

Gaining international recognition for a major innovation in government—"This is the frontier", IMF

Presenting the case for public service reform and delivery to public servants and periodically to the media.

Head of the Standards and Effectiveness Unit (SEU), Department of Education and Employment (DfEE) and Chief Adviser to the Secretary of State on School Standards (in 2000–1, c.300 people and £1 billion budget)

1997–2001

Advice to the Secretary of State on all aspects of schools policy

Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the government's ambitious school standards agenda, including successful national strategies for improving literacy and numeracy by age 11; an emerging strategy for Key Stage 3; vigorous policies for dealing with school failure; encouraging collaboration, individualisation, diversity and technological innovation in secondary schools, especially through Excellence in Cities and City Academies; designing and implementing policies to improve and sometimes contract out failing LEAs; implementing a range of means for disseminating and encouraging the adoption of best practice; contributing to the reform of professional development and the modernisation of the teaching profession

Public promotion of the government's education policies

Creation of the SEU and leadership of its 300 or so staff, including many appointed from outside

Significant contribution to the modernisation of the policy process.

Main Achievements:

Leading role in the preparation of the 1997 White Paper Excellence in Schools and the 1998 Green Paper Teachers: Meeting the Challenge of Change

The successful implementation of the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies from conception to powerful and positive impact on virtually every primary school classroom

Designing and implementing a successful approach to reducing school failure

The development and early implementation of policies designed to improve and diversify secondary education

Holding the vision for overall schools policy and contributing to policy development and implementation across the Schools Directorate

Preparation of the Green Paper Schools: Building on Success (February 2001) and planning its implementation.

Professor of Education and Dean of New Initiatives Institute of Education, University of London

1995–1997

Professor of Education, Keele University

1993–1995

Head of the Education and Equal Opportunities Department, National Union of Teachers (NUT)

1989–1993

Public Responsibilities

1986–1990 Councillor, London Borough of Hackney

1988–1989 Chair of shadow Local Education Authority, Hackney

1987 Parliamentary Candidate

Education

Queen's College, Oxford, BA (Hons) Modern History (2nd class)

1974–1977

Georg-August Universität, Göttingen, Germany

1977–1978

Westminster College, Oxford, Post Graduate Certificate of Education

1978–1979

MA (Educational Management and Administration, University of London)

1988–1990 (*part time*)

Declarations of Interest

Sir Michael declared the following interests prior to interview:

Chief Education Advisor, Pearson - which he is due to leave by September 2017.³

University of Exeter, Governing Council - which he would give up if appointed.

Delivery Associates, a company in which he is the majority owner. It works with governments around the world to help them deliver outcomes for citizens. Sir Michael has agreed that Delivery Associates will not hold contracts with the Department for Education, BEIS or UK universities while Sir Michael is chair of OfS.

Mentat - a small start-up, based in San Francisco offering services to improve the employability of graduates, such as building the capacity of careers services at universities. The risk of real or perceived conflict is low as this is a US focused company.

³ Sir Michael indicated during the course of the pre-appointment hearing that he would stand down from his role at Pearson prior to appointment.

Formal Minutes

Tuesday 21 February 2017

Members present:

Neil Carmichael, in the Chair

Lucy Frazer William Wragg
Lilian Greenwood

Draft Report (*Appointment of the Chair of the Office for Students*) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

Ordered that the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 15 read and agreed to.

Four papers were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available (Standing Order No. 134).

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 February at 9am

Witness

The following witness gave evidence. Transcripts can be viewed on the [inquiry publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

Tuesday 21 February 2017

Sir Michael Barber, Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the Office for Students

List of Reports from the Committee during the current Parliament

All publications from the Committee are available on the [publications page](#) of the Committee's website.

The reference number of the Government's response to each Report is printed in brackets after the HC printing number.

Session 2015–16

First Report	The role of Regional Schools Commissioners	HC 401 (HC 975)
Second Report	Holocaust Education	HC 480 (HC 974)
Third Report	Appointment of the Chief Regulator of Ofqual	HC 822
Fourth Report	Mental health and well-being of looked-after children	HC 481
First Joint Special Report	Education, skills and productivity: commissioned research	HC 565
First Special Report	Apprenticeships and traineeships for 16 to 19 year olds: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2014–15	HC 317
Second Special Report	Extremism in schools: the Trojan Horse affair: Ofsted Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2014–15	HC 324
Fourth Special Report	Holocaust Education: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015–16	HC 974
Fifth Special Report	The role of Regional Schools Commissioners: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2015–16	HC 975

Session 2016–17

First Report	Careers education, information, advice and guidance	HC 205
Second Report	Appointment of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills	HC 170 (HC 674)
Third Report	Social work reform	HC 201 (HC 733)
Fourth Report	Evidence check: Grammar schools	HC 780
Fifth Report	Recruitment and retention of teachers	HC 199
First Special Report	Appointment of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2016–17	HC 674
Second Special Report	Social work reform: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2016–17	HC 733