
Director General for Regulation

Siobhan Carey
Head of Profession for Statistics
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
By email

16 February 2016

Dear Siobhan,

I am writing about the use of statistics derived from the National Student Survey in Minister of State Joseph Johnson's evidence to the BIS Select Committee on 8 December 2015, in a discussion about the Green Paper *Fulfilling our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*. The statistics, about the proportion of providers performing well below their peers on at least one aspect of the student experience, have not been published separately. In particular, we note that the measure used is complex and so it is not clear whether the proportions quoted are indeed large as implied by the above discussion. The Authority is concerned that this reduces the scope for informed public debate about the need for the Teaching Excellence Framework proposed in the Green Paper.

The Authority would ask that you raise this with your colleagues and take steps to ensure that future such references to statistics are supported by publication with sufficient commentary and guidance as to enable informed debate.

I am copying this letter to John Pullinger, the National Statistician.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Humpherson