



Education Committee

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Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Department for Education
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Dear Damian

My Committee received a valuable private briefing from Peter Riddell yesterday on public appointments and his investigation into the appointments made to the board of the Office for Students.

On 27 February, I urged the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation to increase the representation of further education institutions and apprenticeships on the board of the OfS. Following a brief discussion this morning, the Committee has agreed to raise this proposal with you formally for your consideration.

Given the rapidly evolving nature of the higher education landscape, we believe that the OfS board needs to have a breadth of representation which will fully equip it to respond to (and in some cases) drive reform towards a less compartmentalised and more inclusive future for higher level skills. Strong links with FE and apprenticeships—both of which are growing in importance—would be a big step in the right direction.

We look forward to welcoming you to your first appearance at the Committee (as a witness) on 21 March and hope to discuss this, amongst other issues, with you then.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair of the Education Committee