



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Secretary of State

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30 May 2019

Dear Colleague,

Publication of the Independent panel report to the review of post-18 education and funding

As I previously informed the House, in February 2018 Government launched a major review across post-18 education and its financing. An independent panel, led by Philip Augar, was tasked to look at how we can ensure that the education system for those aged 18 years and over is accessible to all; supported by a funding system that provides value for money and works for students and taxpayers; incentivises choice and competition across the sector; and encourages the development of the skills our country needs.

Today I am pleased to confirm that the panel has published its report. The report can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-18-review-of-education-and-funding-independent-panel-report> and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

This report is a major landmark in setting the direction of travel for the future of post-18 education and as you may be aware, is the first report since the Robbins report in 1963 to look at the totality of post-18 education. I'm sure you'll agree, this is a very comprehensive report, with detailed analysis and no less than 53 recommendations, and has given the Government a lot to consider.

To inform its advice, the panel carried out an extensive programme of engagement, evidence collection and analysis across the post-18 landscape with a wide spectrum of sector experts, leaders and senior figures. They also received almost 400 responses to the call for evidence. I would like to thank colleagues across both Houses who have engaged with the panel on this review.

I am very grateful to the members of the panel for all their work. We will now need to consider the panel's recommendations carefully and will conclude the review at the Spending Review.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure the review delivers a post-18 education system that is joined up, and supported by a funding system that works for students and taxpayers.

We are clear that whatever route a student chooses, and whatever their background, post-18 education should set them on a successful path for their future. We strongly believe that both the HE and FE sectors can and should continue to grow and thrive together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damian Hinds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Damian Hinds
Secretary of State for Education