

**Consultation on targeting funding for disabled students in Higher Education from 2016/17 onwards**

**RESPONSE FORM**

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available, on public request, individual responses.

The closing date for this consultation is 24 September 2015.

**Your details**

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Address:

Please return completed forms to:

Paul Higgs,

Higher Education Student Funding Policy,

5th Floor Abbey 1,

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills,

1 Victoria Street,

London,

SW1H 0ET

Please tick the box below that best describes you as a respondent to this consultation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Individual |
|  | Business representative organisation/trade body |
|  | Central government |
|  | Charity or social enterprise |
|  | Large business (over 250 staff) |
|  | Legal representative |
|  | Local Government |
|  | Medium business (50 to 250 staff) |
|  | Micro business (up to 9 staff) |
|  | Small business (10 to 49 staff) |
|  | Trade union or staff association |
|  | Other (please describe) |

**Question 1** Do you think a minimum level of reasonable adjustments for all HE providers could help ensure a consistent approach to making reasonable adjustments?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 1, what areas do you think should be covered? Please state what you think the minimum level for each area should be.

**Question 2** Do you think there are other mechanisms that could be introduced to achieve a consistency of reasonable adjustments for disabled students across all HE providers?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 2, please describe them.

**Question 3** Do you have any examples of how it might prove difficult for an HE provider to make reasonable adjustments because of the nature of their student population (e.g. if the HE provider has a very large or small student cohort)?

 **Yes No**

If you have answered yes to question 3, please explain why this could be difficult.

**Question 4** Do you think the Government’s preferred option for non-medical help (NMH) changes fulfils the policy rationale of making HE as accessible as possible, re-balancing support between HEIs and DSAs, and improving value for money?

 **Yes No**

If no to question 4, please give details of your reasons.

**Question 5** Do you think any of the alternative options b) to e) for NMH provision in paragraph 58 of the consultation document could deliver the support required and meet the need to make HE as accessible as possible, re-balance support between HEIs and DSAs, and improve value for money?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 5, which one(s)? Please give details, explaining how the proposal takes account of the legal duty imposed on HE providers

**Question 6** Do you have an alternative proposal for NMH provision?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 6, please give details, explaining how your proposal takes account of the legal duty imposed on HE providers, and meets the policy rationale (i.e. the need to make HE as accessible as possible, balance support between HEIs and DSAs, and improve value for money)

**Question 7** In NMH Band One categories a - e and g are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should not sit with the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 7, please give full details and explain your reasoning.

**Question 8** In NMH Band One category f (see More Information) are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should move to the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 8, please give full details, and explain your reasoning.

**Question 9** In NMH Band Two categories a – c are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should not sit with the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 9, please give full details and explain your reasoning.

**Question 10** In NMH Band Three category c (see More Information) are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should not sit with the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 10, please give full details and explain your reasoning.

**Question 11** In NMH Band Three categories a, b, and d are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should move to the responsibility of the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 11, please give full details and explain your reasoning.

**Question 12** In NMH Band Four categories a - e are there any circumstances where the primary responsibility for provision should move to the HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If yes to question 12, please give full details and explain your reasoning.

**Question 13** Do you have detailed edits or comments on the draft NMH guidance? These can be provided below.

**Question 14** Where accommodation is owned and managed by the institution or its agent, do you agree that the additional costs of providing specialist accommodation for disabled students should not be passed on to the student?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 14 is no, please explain your reasons.

**Question 15** What other approach would you favour for funding specialist accommodation? Please explain why.

**Question 16** Do you agree that the primary source of hard copy materials should be through an institution’s library services to remove the need for individual printers, scanners and hard copy materials?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 16 is no, why? What alternatives do you suggest?

**Question 17** Do you agree with the approach to the funding of standard computer peripherals?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 17 is no, why? What alternatives do you suggest?

**Question 18** Do you agree with the approach to funding items referred to as ‘the bundle’?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 18 is no, why? What alternatives do you suggest?

**Question 19** Do you agree with the approach to funding audio capture equipment?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 19 is no, why? What alternatives do you suggest?

**Question 20** Are there circumstances where the primary responsibility for providing an individual item of IT related equipment, for example a printer, scanner, DVR etc. should fall to a student’s HE provider?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 20 is yes, which items of equipment would fall into this category? If yes or no, please give reasons for your answer.

**Question 21** We have described how we think HE providers can best fulfil their obligation to supply reasonable adjustments for disabled students. Are there other ways in which they could do so?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 21 is yes, are there other ways in which they could do so? Please describe them.

**Question 22** How should any changes introduced be monitored and evaluated to ensure students are receiving a consistent service and are not being disadvantaged?

**Question 23** Are there any additional safeguards for students that should be considered to ensure that they receive the support necessary?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 23 is yes, please state what you think they should be.

**Question 24** Some students may not be able to identify their final choice of HE provider until the clearing process. Do you think that any specific arrangements need to be put in place as part of clearing?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 24 is yes, what are they and why do you think they should be put in place?

**Question 25** Do you have any relevant additional information that you would like to be considered as part of the ongoing Equality Analysis?

 **Yes No**

If your answer to question 25 is yes, you can provide evidence, further information, or a paper in support of your views by forwarding this to dsaconsultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk or by forwarding a hard copy by post to

 Paul Higgs,

 Higher Education Student Funding Policy, 5th Floor Abbey 1,

 Department for Business, Innovation and Skills,

 1 Victoria Street,

 London,

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Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge receipt of individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply [ ]



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