



office of the
independent
adjudicator

PN 918 (13.11.2010)

PRESS NOTICE: OIA LAUNCHES SECOND ROUND OF PATHWAY CONSULTATION

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) has launched a second round of consultation following publication of the Pathway Report in February 2010. This second round follows on from a commitment made in the Pathway Report to consult further on three emerging issues:

- A. Publishing details of OIA Formal Decisions
- B. Appointing an additional student 'voice' to the OIA Board
- C. Whether the OIA should accept complaints from students studying for Foundation Degrees owned by Further Education Colleges

Rob Behrens, OIA Independent Adjudicator and Chief Executive commented;

"This consultation is taking place against a background of the debate about the Browne Report and with the knowledge and support of the Ministers responsible for Higher Education in England and Wales. In the Pathway Report we made a specific commitment to Scheme users and stakeholders to consult further, and we want to hear views on these three issues before we make final decisions.

All three issues are important for the development of the OIA as we strive to make our decision-making even more transparent, user-friendly and in-line with good practice in other sectors."

Copies of the consultation document can be found on the OIA website www.oiahe.org.uk. Submissions to the consultation can be made by clicking the link on the front page of the OIA website or by writing to the OIA. The deadline for submissions is midnight on 14th February 2011. An announcement on the findings of the second round of consultation will be made after Easter 2011.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. To arrange an interview with the Independent Adjudicator and Chief Executive, please contact Nigel Calvin, Communications and Policy Manager, by emailing nigel.calvin@oiahe.org.uk or by phone on 0118 959 2733

2. The consultation document can be downloaded here http://www.oiahe.org.uk/downloads/OIA_Pathway_Consultation_2nd_Round.pdf If you need

the information in another format, or have problems accessing it, contact the OIA on 0118 959 9813 or pathway@oiahe.org.uk

3. Submissions to the consultation can be made by clicking the consultation link on the front page of the OIA website www.oiahe.org.uk or by writing to the OIA at Third Floor, Kings Reach, 38-50 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 3AA. If you need the information in another format, or have problems accessing it, contact the OIA on 0118 959 9813 or pathway@oiahe.org.uk

4. The deadline for making a submission is midnight on 14th February 2011. An announcement on the findings of the consultation will be made after Easter 2011.

5. The Pathway Report was published on 11 February 2010. Copies are available here <http://www.oiahe.org.uk/downloads/OIA-Pathway-Report.pdf>

6. The OIA is the designated operator of the Scheme for reviewing student complaints in England and Wales, established under the Higher Education Act 2004. All universities in England and Wales belong to the Scheme.

7. The OIA has a wide remit to review student complaints about an 'act or omission' by HEIs in England and Wales. It does not review academic judgment or admissions issues. The Scheme Rules and all details related to OIA operations can be found at www.oiahe.org.uk