Annual Report 2010

Higher Education
Better Regulation
Group

HEBRG
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Higher education in the UK is held in high regard. Competition for entry is intense and standards of both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are generally high. It remains a successful part of the UK economy.

It is, however, complex – academically and financially. Students and the public require reassurance that their funding is being put to good use. While primary responsibility for that reassurance lies with the individual institutions, many other organisations have legitimate interests in all aspects of higher education. The Higher Education Better Regulation Group was established to ensure that the necessary regulations are relevant and, wherever possible, make use of existing data. This report details our activities in our first year.

Sir Graeme Catto
Chairman, Higher Education Better Regulation Group
Background
The final report of the Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG) was published in July 2008. One of the recommendations was that:

“UUK [Universities UK] and GuildHE, in concert with HEFCE [Higher Education Funding Council for England], should take a lead in convening a standing forum for regular liaison, consultation and dialogue between universities, HE colleges and the bodies that regulate them, with regulation itself forming part of the agenda for these discussions.”

In 2009, the sector representative bodies, Universities UK, GuildHE, Universities Scotland and Higher Education Wales, successfully presented the business case for a new group to the funding bodies. The costs of staffing and overheads of the new group, the Higher Education Better Regulation Group (HEBRG), were to be divided between the funding bodies, with the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) contributing start-up funds. Universities UK and GuildHE officers planned to support the staff, provide expert advice in specific areas and facilitate communication with the sector. The funds were agreed for a two-year period initially, from 2009/10 to 2010/11.

Sir Graeme Catto was invited by the Chief Executive of Universities UK, on behalf of the representative bodies, to take the role of independent Chair, and the HEBRG office was established in early 2010. Based in Universities UK offices at Woburn House, London, the HEBRG team comprises one Policy Adviser (part time), one Policy Officer (full time) and one Executive Assistant (part time).

HEBRG is building on at least 10 years of activity to reduce the regulatory burden on higher education. This has included the HEFCE-sponsored HE Forum for better accountability, the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF), the Better Regulation Review Group (BRRG), and HERRG with a secretariat based in DIUS. The work of these groups highlighted the low risk nature of higher education and the absence of any major non-compliance or management failures but, above all, emphasised the complex nature of higher education regulation.
Purpose

Under its terms of reference (Annexe 1), HEBRG is committed to raising the profile of better regulation, increasing understanding of its benefits and improving communication and understanding between the sector, its regulators and sponsors. Whereas HERRG was based in government and its scope limited to England, HEBRG is led by the higher education sector and its remit is UK-wide. Unlike its predecessors, whose emphasis was on the reduction of the regulatory burden, HEBRG recognised the need to promote a new approach to regulation to accommodate changing public perceptions about the regulation of business and the role of regulators. Its purpose, therefore, is to promote a positive approach to regulation, building on the five principles of good regulation that state that regulation should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted only where action is needed. Its role in upholding these principles and challenging those responsible for changing or introducing new regulation is critical in the new landscape for higher education that has been emerging during 2010. HEBRG encourages a pro-active approach to regulation that maintains confidence in the higher education sector’s ability to self-regulate.

Membership

HEBRG membership is composed of a cross-section of regulators, sector experts from higher education institutions, the four funding bodies for higher education, sector agencies and representative bodies, and government departments. Members for 2010 and dates of meetings are listed in Annexe 2. HEBRG currently has two standing working groups, one considering the regulation of education by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and the second considering immigration regulation and its impact on higher education institutions’ accountability burden.

Governance

The Chair reports to HEBRG’s sponsors, who are the representative bodies and sector funders. The staff are employed by Universities UK and work closely with policy staff in both Universities UK and GuildHE. The success of HEBRG has, in part, depended upon striking a balance between the higher education sector and its regulators, as it has no power or authority to hold either to account, and is dependent upon their co-operation and collaboration. It has also sought to take a pro-active approach, actively engaging with government departments and agencies. It complements the work of representative and funding bodies whilst, at the same time, is seen as having an independent and impartial role. The HEBRG Executive (Annexe 3) has responsibility for overseeing the work programme.
Achievements in 2010

In setting out the priorities and work programme for the first year it was important to acknowledge a degree of continuity with HERRG but also to highlight the differences between the two bodies. Continuity was established by considering the recommendations for future action in the HERRG Final Report and taking forward those still appropriate, in addition to developing a new agenda. However, the gate-keeper role of HERRG was not adopted by HEBRG due to its position outside of government and the small size of its staff. The major achievements in the first year, outlined in greater detail in the body of this report, include the following.

Communication with stakeholders
This included establishing a presence through the HEBRG website; identifying priorities for the work programme in collaboration with HEBRG members, contributing to major consultations on the future shape of higher education; and a successful first conference on regulation that contributed to the sector’s thinking about the 2011 White Paper on higher education.

Establishing HEBRG as a source of expert knowledge on the regulation of higher education by PSRBs
A successful project was undertaken in collaboration with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), Association of Heads of University Administration (AHUA) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), leading to the publication of a report on the role of PSRBs in regulating higher education and a database of PSRBs available on the HEBRG website. This work raised HEBRG’s profile and led to invitations to contribute to a number of consultations and expert groups.

Addressing the accountability demands of the points based system (PBS) for immigration regulation (Tiers 2 and 4)
The accountability demands of the PBS regulations were raised as an urgent issue for HEBRG to engage with. A project to investigate these demands and gather evidence to support collaborative working with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to achieve greater efficiencies in the operation of the regulations was established and is due to report in 2011.

Raising the profile of the Higher Education Concordat on Quality Assurance Arrangements and Data Collection (The Concordat) and development of the Principles of Better Regulation for Higher Education (The Principles)
At the start of 2010, original signatories to the HERRG Concordat were contacted and the vast majority expressed interest in re-establishing their commitment. A revised version of the Concordat, in the form of the Principles, was introduced at the HEBRG conference in December 2010. The conference facilitated debate about the nature and scope of these principles, and they are scheduled for publication by HEBRG in summer 2011.
Establishing priorities

The priorities and work programme were discussed by HEBRG members at the inaugural meeting on 15 April 2010. Members considered broad areas of work drawn from a wide evidence base, including recommendations from the HERRG Final Report and the 2009 report by PA Consulting Group on behalf of HEFCE that reviewed the costs, benefits and burdens of accountability in English higher education. Potential areas of work were identified from these and other sources and included: the role of PSRBs in the regulation of professional higher education; quality assurance of higher education and its relationship to better regulation; regulation associated with the assurance of research activity; revitalising and updating the HERRG Concordat. Members also recognised the importance of monitoring new and emerging regulatory issues. These included the outcomes of the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (Browne Review); the student experience with regulation, for example, in the context of the work of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA); and the PBS for immigration regulation as it affected higher education students and staff.

In establishing priorities, members agreed that HEBRG should seek to influence wider issues affecting the higher education sector. Therefore, the programme of work for 2010 would incorporate aspects of the regulation of professional education by PSRBs, immigration regulation and the PBS: Tiers 2 and 4, the redevelopment and dissemination of the Concordat (as the Principles), and the shape and impact of the new regulatory landscape for higher education arising from proposals relating to future funding and student finance regimes.

As HEBRG has a UK-wide remit, members from the funding bodies and sector representatives of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are routinely invited to share their position on better regulation, including UK-wide issues and those specific to the devolved nations.

Engagement with regulatory bodies and stakeholders

In its first year, it was important to establish not only the presence of HEBRG but also the differences between it and its predecessors. Shortly after the full staffing complement was in place, the general election was called and Parliament dissolved, so the primary focus for the first part of 2010 was to establish contact with a range of non-governmental regulators and higher education agencies to take forward the work programme. The details of these engagements are summarised in Annexe 4. The HEBRG policy staff worked closely with Universities UK and GuildHE policy advisers, who facilitated engagement between HEBRG and the QAA/UK Inter-Professional Group (UKIPG) PSRB Forum, the Quality in Higher Education Group (QHEG) and the Academic Registrars Council (ARC). Papers or presentations were provided to a number of meetings of these organisations. HEBRG staff also contributed to Universities UK submissions to the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance and to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Following the establishment of the Coalition Government, HEBRG engaged with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and committees responsible for the government’s better regulation agenda, including the Better Regulation Executive and the Regulatory Policy Committee. The British Chambers of Commerce, which publishes the annual Burdens Barometer, was also alerted to the establishment of HEBRG. An analysis of the Burdens Barometer 2010 by HEBRG representatives from ARC and the British Universities Finance Directors Group (BUFDG) revealed that nearly 70 per cent of the legislation listed in the Barometer applied as much to the higher education sector as to business in general. This is a useful starting point to remember when considering the cumulative impact of this in addition to the sector’s internal accountability systems.
Working group on PSRBs

The regulatory and accountability relationships between PSRBs and higher education institutions are varied and complex. HEBRG’s work in this area to date includes a range of outcomes in collaboration with QAA, HESA, AHUA and QHEG that have established HEBRG as a source of expert knowledge on the regulation of higher education by PSRBs.

A research report exploring the engagement of PSRBs with the higher education sector was published in March 2011. An online database of PSRBs’ engagement with higher education institutions, which includes information on their self-reported accreditation activities, subject areas and geographical remit, is available on the HEBRG website. The aim of this resource is to enhance practitioners’ understanding of this area of higher education regulation and accountability.

This work informed HESA’s sector-wide survey of statutory and external returns that was delivered on their behalf by AHUA in autumn 2010. Early findings from the survey indicate that reports and returns may be divided into seven main categories, and those required by PSRBs constitute one of the largest. HEBRG staff are currently investigating the survey returns more thoroughly and collaborating with HESA to develop a checklist of best practice for higher education institutions to increase the efficiency with which they deal with such returns. It may also be possible to identify where further work with PSRBs may be undertaken in support of streamlining data collection requirements.

HEBRG collaborated with QHEG to assist with early analysis of the joint HEFCE, Universities UK, GuildHE and Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland (DELNI) Consultation on future arrangements for quality assurance in England and Northern Ireland (2009/47). HEBRG staff reviewed the returns relating to PSRBs and highlighted not only the high importance and value of PSRBs to higher education institutions but also the ongoing opportunities for streamlining accountability requirements.

QHEG subsequently commissioned HEBRG to produce a plain English statement explaining the role and status of PSRBs in relation to their engagement with higher education. This is available on the HEBRG website at: http://www.hebetterregulation.ac.uk/OurWork/Pages/Professional,StatutoryandregulatoryBodies(PSRBs).aspx

The HEBRG Policy Officer also participated in the HEFCE/Universities UK/GuildHE Public Information Working Group on Professional Accreditation, one of the groups established to advise on how best to publish and present information designed for inclusion in the proposed Key Information Set (KIS) which higher education providers in England and Northern Ireland will be required to publish for each course (see the HEFCE, Universities UK and GuildHE joint consultation, Public information about higher education (2010/31) for further details).

HEBRG policy staff contributed to two meetings of the PSRB Forum co-chaired by QAA and the UKIPG in June and November 2010. After further consultation with the forum organisers and HEBRG membership, it was agreed that HEBRG will assume a more strategic role in shaping the agenda of the QAA/UKIPG PSRB Forum in the coming year. This will include the development and dissemination of the new statement of the Principles and an initiative to coordinate PSRB responses to the forthcoming White Paper on higher education.

Working group on immigration regulation

Immigration regulation affecting the admission of non-European Economic Area (EEA) students to higher education institutions and the employment of non-EEA staff, an area previously kept under review by
HEBRG, emerged as a priority for HEBRG members. A project has been started to analyse the impact on higher education institutions of complying with the UKBA PBS: Tiers 2 and 4. This work, to be undertaken by an external consultant on behalf of HEBRG, will identify higher education institutions’ perception of risk associated with this regulatory requirement; the additional costs and accountability burden of compliance; and, if possible, the extent to which previous efficiency savings may have been lost through the reversal of processes to meet immigration compliance. The report of this analysis will be published in the first half of 2011 and the findings will provide evidence to inform the sector’s discussions with UKBA with a view to working together on solutions to secure more efficient processes for both higher education institutions and UKBA and disseminate good practice. Following discussion with UKBA, the existing working group will be enlarged through membership from the UKBA sponsorship management team.

The Concordat

The Higher Education Concordat on quality assurance arrangements and data collection was the key instrument employed by HERRG for the better regulation of higher education. The Concordat’s remit was the collection of data and the external quality assurance of higher and further education provision in higher education institutions in England. Signatories included funding bodies, sector agencies, statutory regulators, professional bodies and government departments. They committed to practical plans for working together on a less burdensome, more proportionate approach to quality assurance and data collection, and published annexes detailing their activities in this area.

Soon after the establishment of HEBRG, the majority of signatories re-affirmed their commitment to the Concordat and the principles of good regulation. HEBRG members agreed that the Concordat succeeded in performing a top level symbolic function and served as a reference point for discussion and negotiation between regulators which could lead to the formation of more detailed memoranda of understanding. The document was revised and updated accordingly. However, in October 2010, following the publication of the Browne Review, members agreed that due to uncertainty about the nature and shape of the future regulatory landscape for higher education, revisions should be substantial and the timing of the new document must take into account the forthcoming White Paper and higher education legislation. This led to a new statement of the Principles, building on the original framework of the Concordat.

The Principles

The new statement of the Principles updated the original sections on data collection and quality assurance, and added sections appropriate to its role in underpinning a new framework for regulating a more market-oriented higher education sector. These additional principles refer to the need to consider regulation in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, rather than reducing burden; the need for transparency; the need to safeguard students’ interests; and to consider alternatives to regulation where possible, in recognition of institutions’ autonomous status. The Principles were informed by input from delegates at HEBRG’s successful December 2010 conference.

The Principles will be circulated to former Concordat signatories and other interested parties in early 2011. It is anticipated that organisations will endorse and sign up to the statement (in the spirit of supporting a revised Concordat) by June 2011 and new signatories will also be welcomed. The scope of the Principles is UK-wide, reflecting the remit of HEBRG and its sponsors.
Work programme for 2011
As the higher education sector faces the prospect of considerable change to its regulatory framework, there is clearly an ongoing role for HEBRG in support of better regulation. The work programme for 2011 will include the following.

- Reviewing proposals for change to the regulatory and accountability framework for higher education in England published in the forthcoming White Paper and responding to these to ensure any new regulation supports efficiency and transparency in accordance with the Principles.

- Exploring the impact on higher education regulatory systems of the growth of a market-led sector and the entry of new providers.

- Securing commitment from relevant bodies to the Principles and establishing a process for monitoring and reporting progress on this commitment.

- Concluding the PSRB regulation project and working with the QAA/UKIPG PSRB Forum to achieve further efficiencies, where appropriate.

- Concluding the immigration regulation project and supporting further collaboration between the sector and UKBA to enhance regulatory processes.

- Reviewing the proposals and recommendations in HESA’s forthcoming feasibility study into the requirements necessary to achieve the vision for the new higher education information landscape.

- Reviewing regulatory areas not specifically addressed in the work programme so far, for example, health education and initial teacher training.

- Organising a second conference in autumn/winter 2011.
The first year of communications activity for HEBRG aimed to introduce the group and raise awareness of its priorities and work programme among key sector and government stakeholders, regulators and higher education institutions. This included the development and launch of a new website, publications and two events, one of which was the successful first HEBRG annual conference held in December 2010 which brought together much of the group’s work and engagement to date.

HEBRG has developed an independent brand and website to support its establishment as being supported by, but essentially independent from, Universities UK and GuildHE, and led by an independent Chair. The HEBRG brand is used across the website, stationery and all publications including pamphlets, conference delegate packs and research reports.

The HEBRG website was launched in June 2010 within four months of the HEBRG office being fully established. As HEBRG’s activities are publicly funded by government bodies, HEBRG was eligible to register an ac.uk domain name under the auspices of JANET, the UK’s education and research network, and www.hebetterregulation.ac.uk was registered. The website includes information on the background to HEBRG and its predecessor; members and their organisations; current work and priorities; meeting agendas and papers; events; and publications. It is the main channel for disseminating published outputs, including the research report on engaging with PSRBs, and a summary of the annual conference with the speakers’ presentations. It will also be the main channel for communicating information about the Principles and progress with signatories.

To date, an information pamphlet has been published to support the launch of HEBRG and another on the work related to PSRBs was distributed at the conference. Publications include the research report on PSRB engagement, the plain English statement on PSRBs, and the forthcoming Principles. It is anticipated that a report of the current work on immigration regulation will also be published by the summer of 2011.
HEBRG launch 24 June 2010

HEBRG was formally launched at an event in Woburn House on 24 June 2010. Over 50 participants attended, representing a range of organisations including higher education institutions, regulatory bodies, professional organisations and sector agencies. The welcome addresses by Sir Graeme Catto, Chair of HEBRG, and Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive of Universities UK, established the independence of HEBRG and its importance for the sector. The keynote presentation, given by Professor Kel Fidler, Chair of the Engineering Council, established a sense of continuity between HEBRG and its predecessor HERRG, as the Engineering Council had been recognised by HERRG for its efficient accountability requirements.

HEBRG first annual conference: Regulating higher education after Browne: new landscape or more red tape? 9 December 2010

The aim of the conference was to bring together leaders from the higher education sector, professional organisations and government to examine ways in which collaboration between these interests can achieve better regulation. It took place against the background of major activity at Westminster, where the House of Commons vote on increasing student fees was decided that day. It provided the 81 delegates attending with an early opportunity to consider how the higher education regulatory landscape might be changed by the forthcoming White Paper, and was a platform for articulating their views on the potential changes. Delegates’ comments also informed the revisions to the Principles.

Chaired by Sir Graeme Catto, the speakers and discussion groups covered the range of issues that had informed HEBRG’s agenda in its first year. The keynote presentation by Professor Philip Jones, Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University and Chair of QHEG, maintained that many of the changes proposed by Browne represent an evolutionary development of ideas present in the current system, both in quality assurance and financial regulation. Through recent developments in self-regulation of these areas, the sector is proving itself to be flexible, robust and responsive to public concerns. The concluding presentation by Sir Don Curry, Non-Executive Chair, Better Regulation Executive, provided delegates with an overview of the Coalition Government’s agenda for better regulation in the broadest sense, including its preference for encouraging a culture change in attitudes to regulation.

Other speakers included Alison Alden, Chief Executive, HESA; Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive, Universities UK; Jane Hern, Registrar and Chief Executive, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and Chair, UKiPG; Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive, QAA; Professor Jim Roach, Dean of the School of Engineering and Computing, Bournemouth University and Anne Trotter, Head of Quality Assurance, Nursing and Midwifery Council. Several of the presentations highlighted the current paradigm shift from a supply-led to a demand-led market for higher education and noted that this will have implications for quality, control of student numbers and access arrangements.

The conference provided a high point on which to end HEBRG’s first year, and feedback from delegates was very positive.
REFERENCES


Purpose
The purpose of the Higher Education Better Regulation Group (HEBRG) is to promote a positive approach to regulation. It aims to build on the principles of good regulation that state that any regulation should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent, and targeted only at cases where action is needed. It will encourage a pro-active approach to regulation that secures increased confidence in the sector’s ability for self-regulation yet minimises the impact of regulation that has the potential to unnecessarily increase costs, stifle innovation or diminish institutions’ capacity to provide quality services.

Reporting and governance
The Chair will report to the sponsors, i.e., the representative bodies (GuildHE, Higher Education Wales, Universities Scotland, Universities UK) and funders (Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, Higher Education Funding Council for England, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Scottish Funding Council), and to the wider higher education sector, through the annual reports of HEBRG.

HEBRG will establish working groups, as necessary, to undertake activity in relation to its priorities.

Terms of reference
1. Raise the profile of positive regulation, increase understanding of the benefits of intelligent regulation and improve communication and understanding between the sector, its regulators and sponsors.
2. Identify and record specific outcomes arising from developing proportionate and risk-based regulation in areas targeted by the group as a priority.
3. Manage, monitor and promote the Higher Education Concordat, extending its scope to include issues of relevance to all UK nations, to raise its profile within and external to the sector, and use it as a starting point for entering into dialogue with organisations about approaches to better regulation.
4. Challenge institutional claims of over-regulation and support the sector in sharing good practice on the positive benefits of better regulation.
5. Provide independent support to the work of the sponsors in this area.
6. Work in full partnership with members and encourage issues of concern to the sector arising from new and emerging regulation to be raised by members.
7. Act as a source of support to higher education to raise public confidence in its regulation by clearly articulating its effective accountability and governance to sponsors, regulators, students and the wider public.
8. Act as a source of support to regulators by explaining the interests and concerns of regulators to higher education.
9. Have responsibility for oversight of the governance and strategic direction of the work of HEBRG.
**Membership**

The membership of HEBRG is inclusive of higher education funding bodies, regulators and representative bodies from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The principal criteria for membership are strategic alignment with the Group’s priorities and a willingness to collaborate in pursuit of better regulation.

Members represent their various constituencies. Where items on the agenda are presented that may result in a conflict of interest for members, the item should be presented by a representative other than the HEBRG member.

While there is no set limit on the number of members, and additional members may be invited by the Chair to join according to current priorities, the optimal size for productive working will be kept under review. The initial membership includes:

**An independent chair**

**Representation from each of the representative bodies:**
- GuildHE
- Higher Education Wales
- Universities Scotland
- Universities UK

**Representation from each of the funding bodies**
- Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland
- Higher Education Funding Council for England
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Scottish Funding Council

**Representation from**
- Academic Registrars Council
- Association of Heads of University Administration
- British Universities Finance Directors Group
- Committee of University Chairs
- Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
- Department of Health
- GuildHE - Nominee
- Higher Education Statistics Agency
- Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills
- Quality Assurance Agency
- Research Councils UK
- Training and Development Agency for Schools
- Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
- Universities UK – Nominee

**Practicalities**

HEBRG should meet at least three times per year, normally September/October, February/March and June/July, and may also operate by correspondence. Where members are unable to attend a meeting, they may nominate an alternate. HEBRG will operate transparently, including through published papers on its website.
HEBRG membership 2010
Sir Graeme Catto
Independent Chair of HEBRG

Academic Registrars Council
Wendy Appleby, Academic Secretary, Queen Mary University of London

Association of Heads of University Administration
Alison Wild, Pro Vice Chancellor & University Secretary, Liverpool John Moores University

British Universities Finance Directors Group
Andrew McConnell, Chair & Director of Finance, University of Huddersfield

Committee of University Chairs
Sir Andrew Burns, Chair

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Gordon McKenzie, Deputy Director, HE Group (from October 2010)

Department of Employment and Learning Northern Ireland
Fergus Devitt, Director of Higher Education Division

Department of Health
Dr Nick Clarke, Deputy Director for Professional Standards (from June 2010)

GuildHE
Dr Claire Taylor, Dean, Bishop Grosseteste University College (from October 2010)

Higher Education for Wales (unfilled during 2010)

Higher Education Funding Council for England
Steve Egan, Deputy Chief Executive

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Professor Philip Gummett, Chief Executive

Higher Education Statistics Agency
Alison Allden, Chief Executive

Ofsted
Patricia Pritchard, Principal Officer, ITE and Specialist Commissioned Inspections

Quality Assurance Agency
Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive (until October 2010)
Dr Jayne Mitchell, Director of Development & Enhancement Group (from October 2010)

Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council
Brian Baverstock, Deputy Director

Training and Development Agency for Schools
Jeremy Coninx, Funding and Market Management Director
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
Richard Skerrett, Policy Executive

Universities UK (unfilled during 2010)

Universities Scotland
Melvyn Cornish, University Secretary, University of Edinburgh (until September 2010)
Jan Hulme, University Secretary, Glasgow Caledonian University (from October 2010)

Corresponding member
Dr Steven Hill, Head of Strategy Unit, Research Councils UK

Note: Despite several attempts to secure a member representative from Universities UK and Higher Education Wales (HEW), these roles remained unfilled during 2010. A representative from HEW has now been identified for 2011.

Observers
Helen Bowles
Policy Adviser and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, GuildHE

Greg Wade
Policy Adviser, Universities UK

Meeting dates 2010
15 April 2010
24 June 2010
14 October 2010

Working group on professional, statutory and regulatory bodies
Alison Alden
Chief Executive, Higher Education Statistics Agency

Dr David Gale
Assistant Director, Development & Enhancement Group, Quality Assurance Agency

Dr Janet Hanson
Policy Adviser, HEBRG

Dr Catherine Kerfoot
Development Officer, Quality Assurance Agency

Dr Brooke Sperry
Policy Officer, HEBRG

Jonathan Waller
Director of Information & Analysis, Higher Education Statistics Agency
Meeting dates
13 October 2010

Working group on immigration regulation
Wendy Appleby
Academic Secretary, Queen Mary University of London representing Academic Registrars Council

Helen Bowles
Policy Adviser and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, GuildHE

Dr Janet Hanson
Policy Adviser, HEBRG

Catherine Marston
Policy Adviser, Universities UK (until December 2010)

Janet Pearce
Interim Head of Policy & Public Affairs, Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

Dr Brooke Sperry
Policy Officer, HEBRG

Peter Tinson
Executive Secretary, Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association

Andy Youell
Director of Quality & Development, Higher Education Statistics Agency

Meeting dates
10 September 2010
ANNEXE 3

HEBRG Executive 2010
Helen Bowles
Policy Adviser and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, GuildHE

Sir Graeme Catto
Chair, HEBRG

Lynda Finn
Executive Assistant, HEBRG

Dr Janet Hanson
Policy Adviser, HEBRG

Dr Brooke Sperry
Policy Officer, HEBRG

Greg Wade
Policy Adviser, Universities UK
Summary of HEBRG engagements in 2010 by sector

Higher education sector and agencies

GuildHE Quality Management Network meeting, Woburn House. Attendance, 14 January 2010
GuildHE Council Meeting. Attendance, 14 September 2010
Universities UK. Presentations to internal staff meetings, 4 October and 12 November 2010
Council of Deans of Health Executive Group and Chair. Presentation, 16 September 2010

Academic Registrars Council, Day meeting. Presentation, 3 November 2010

HEFCE/Universities UK/GuildHE Expert Working Group on Public Information - Professional Accreditation. Invitation to contribute, 2 December 2010

Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)
Meeting with Susanna Reece, Deputy Adjudicator, and Charlotte Corrish, Communications and Policy Manager, 22 April 2010
Meeting with Rob Behrens, Independent Adjudicator and Chief Executive, and Ram Gidoomal, Chair of the OIA Board, 4 November 2010


Government departments

Regulatory Policy Committee. Meeting with Tony Pedrotti, Director, 27 August 2010
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance, BIS. Meeting with Dr Dan Heard, Head of Policy Development, 15 July 2010
Better Regulation Executive. Meeting with Zoe Dayan, Deputy Director, 17 September 2010
Office of the Minister for Business and Enterprise. Meeting with Jim Dippie, Private Office, 17 September 2010. Invitation to Mr Mark Prisk, Minister for Business, to speak at HEBRG conference accepted initially but represented at the conference by Sir Don Curry, Non-Executive Chair, Better Regulation Executive
Katie Wake, Private Secretary to David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, 17 September 2010

National Audit Office. Meeting with Richard Douglas, Senior Analyst Education, Department for Education (DfE)/BIS, 8 September 2010

Local and National Regulators Improving UK Competitiveness Conference. Attendance, London, 21 October 2010

An overview of Government course, Westminster Explained. Attendance, 18 November 2010

Impact Assessments course, Westminster Explained. Attendance, 14 December 2010
Professional, statutory and regulatory bodies
Engineering Council. Meeting with Richard Shearman, Director of Formation, 26 May 2010

QAA/UKIPG PSRB Forum. Presentation, 23 June 2010

QAA/UKIPG PSRB Forum. Introduction to plain English statement on PSRBs and discussion, 16 November 2010

UK Inter-Professional Group. Meeting with Jane Hern, Registrar and Chief Executive, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and Chair, UKIPG, 10 October 2010

Alliance of Sector Skills Council and Skills for Justice. Meeting with John McNamara, Chief Executive and Fiona Donovan, Policy Adviser, 15 October 2010

Nursing and Midwifery Council. Meeting with Anne Trotter, Head of Quality Assurance, 17 September 2010

Immigration regulation
Universities UK/UKBA Immigration Briefing. Attendance, London, 28 May 2010

Information Standards Board. Meeting with Neil Strange, Management Consultant, 24 November 2010

Research regulation
Research Councils UK.
Meeting with Peter Rigby, Secretary, Operational Strategy Group, 27 August 2010
Meeting with Gareth MacDonald, Head of Assurance, Research Councils UK, 16 November 2010 and invitation to present to HEBRG meeting in 2011.
Abbreviations used in the report

AHUA            Association of Heads of University Administration
ARC             Academic Registrars Council
BIS             Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
BRE             Better Regulation Executive
BRRG            Better Regulation Review Group
BRTF            Better Regulation Task Force
BUFDG           British Universities Finance Directors Group
CUC             Committee of University Chairs
DELNI           Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland
DIUS            Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
EEA             European Economic Area
HEBRG           Higher Education Better Regulation Group
HEFCE           Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEFCW           Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HEI             Higher Education Institution
HERRG           Higher Education Regulation Review Group
HESA            Higher Education Statistics Agency
HEW             Higher Education Wales
JANET           Joint Academic Network
Ofsted          Office for Standards in Education
OIA             Office of the Independent Adjudicator
PBS             Points based system
PSRBs           Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies
QAA             Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
QHEG            Quality in Higher Education Group
RPC             Regulatory Policy Committee
SFC             Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council
TDA             Training and Development Agency for Schools
UCAS            Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UKBA            UK Border Agency
UKIPG           UK Inter-Professional Group
**HEBRG financial report to 31 December 2010**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009/10 Budget</th>
<th>2009/10 Actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>2010/11 Budget Original</th>
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<td><strong>Staff costs</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Service &amp; running costs</strong></td>
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<td>Sub total</td>
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<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
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<td>122,754</td>
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<td>SFC 12%</td>
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<td>18,186</td>
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<td>HEFCW 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/fwd</td>
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<td>73,223</td>
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<td>Budget (5 months to 31/12/10)</td>
<td>Actual (5 months to 31/12/10)</td>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>Budget (5 months to 31/12/11)</td>
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<td>£7,577</td>
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<td>£516</td>
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<td>£73,739</td>
<td>£78,790</td>
<td>(5,051)</td>
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HEBRG was established in 2010 as the successor to the Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG) in order to address changing public and political attitudes towards accountability and the emerging regulatory landscape. The aim of HEBRG is to promote positive regulation. Its key themes build on the principles of good regulation: transparency, accountability, proportionality, consistency and targeting.

HEBRG is working to enhance confidence in the accountability of the UK higher education sector and the ability of its institutions to manage their own affairs effectively. Following recent regulatory failures in other industries and current financial pressures, the most effective way forward is to enact proportionate and risk-based regulation. This advances on previous efforts to simply reduce regulatory burden on the sector.

Good regulation is proportionate and risk-based.

Sponsors
- Universities UK
- GuildHE
- Universities Scotland
- Higher Education Wales
- Higher Education Funding Council for England
- Scottish Funding Council
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

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