



Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose

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Baroness Uddin
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Dear Baroness Uddin

I am writing to you following the Oral Statement Repeat on the Skills for Jobs white paper on Tuesday 26 January to clarify statistics of disadvantaged pupils attending university.

We are pleased that, with the full maintenance loans that are available, we have seen record numbers of disadvantaged students going into higher education.

Data available from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) indicates that black 18-year-olds have seen the largest increase in entry rates to full time-higher education, increasing from 27% in 2009 to 47.5% in 2020, a proportional increase of 76%.

We also know from the Department for Education Widening Participation in Higher Education publication that the black ethnic group have seen the greatest proportional increase in progression rates by age 19 – from 44.1% in 2009/10 to 59.1% in 2018/19.

Progression rates for Black African pupils have also increased proportionately by nearly a quarter since 2009/10.

Further information including published data on higher education participation can be found via the following link: [Widening participation in higher education, Academic Year 2018/19 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

I hope this information is useful. I will place a copy of this letter in the House Libraries.

ELIZABETH BERRIDGE
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE