



Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]
and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Lord Johnson of Marylebone,
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

28 October 2025

Dear Lord Johnson of Marylebone,

Thank you for your question on Tuesday 21 October relating to the International Student Levy and allowing time for me to write to you regarding your question.

This government is committed to supporting the aspiration of every person who meets the requirements and wants to attend higher education. We must, therefore, reform the higher education system to better support disadvantaged students. The previous government removed maintenance grants and the real-terms value of loan support for students has reduced by more than 20% over the last five years. It is essential that we improve this.

That is why the government will reintroduce targeted maintenance grants before the end of this Parliament. The grants will support students from low-income households studying courses aligned with the government's missions and the Industrial Strategy, funded by a levy on international student fees.

We will set out further details on the levy and targeted means-tested maintenance grants at Autumn Budget.

In due course, we will also publish our analysis of impacts, which will set out the expected impacts of the levy on students, providers and taxpayers. This will include equalities impacts.

This government remains committed to creating a secure future for our world-leading higher education sector so it can deliver for students, taxpayers, workers and the economy. We have appointed Professor Edward Peck as Chair of the Office for Students (OfS), where he will play a key role in strengthening its commitment to financial sustainability while also expanding opportunities in higher education. Moreover, we will increase tuition fee caps in line with forecast inflation in 2026/27 and 2027/28 and then legislate - when parliamentary time allows - to increase tuition fee caps automatically for future academic years.

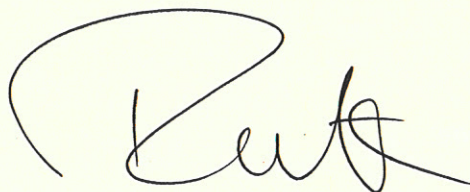
Of course, higher education providers are independent from government and as such must continue to make the necessary and appropriate financial decisions to ensure their long-term sustainability.

We have published our new plan for HE reform through the Post-16 Education and Skills white paper, which sets out our ambition for a world leading and financially sustainable HE sector that delivers value for students, widens participation, drives local and national growth and supplies the skills our labour market needs.

Our focus is now on working with the sector, the Office for students and the rest of Government to deliver this ambitious plan.

Thank you again for allowing me to write to you following your question. I will place a copy of this letter in the library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Anderson', with a large, stylized initial 'B' and a flourish at the end.

**Baroness Anderson of Stoke on Trent
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