



by the OfS. The overall Plan, incorporating the component parts would be signed-off by the Vice-Chancellor, following internal validation, and the Chair of Governors, as required by the OfS.

9. The Board received the review of complaints and appeals in 2017/18. It was noted that there had been relatively few appeals and complaints during the previous academic year and that the University had maintained its six year clear record of no complaints upheld with the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA), the sector's external ombudsman.
10. The Board received and approved the Academic Calendar for 2019/20 and proposed undergraduate term dates for 2019/20 – 2024/25, which incorporated the [REDACTED]. The Board noted that the calendar remained similar to the previous academic year, although the induction period for Freshers had been extended to a full 'Welcome Week' and an intensive interview schedule for [REDACTED] recruitment had been built in to the period November – February. The Board also noted that the 2019/20 meetings of Academic Board and the Board of Governors may be reviewed taking into account OfS release dates, once the latter are confirmed.
11. [REDACTED]
12. The Board received a paper which outlined a review of the University's arrangements in relation to the revised Quality Code and endorsed the work in hand to delegate small review teams to assess arrangements for each guidance theme and report their findings to the relevant board or committee, noting that the work on appeals and complaints was completed under point 9 and that admissions and widening participation matters would be reviewed at the meeting scheduled for June 2019.
13. The Board received an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor, covering strategic matters of relevance to the Academic Board. The Vice-Chancellor noted that:
  - The University had been looking closely at the potential impacts of the UK leaving the European Union without a deal (a 'no-deal' Brexit). Harper Adams was confident that Republic of Ireland and British Island students would have a protected right to free movement under the Common Travel Area (1923) agreement, but had alerted the Home Office to the potential issue of other EU nationals being unable to complete four-year sandwich degree courses in the UK if their residence would be subject to a three-year study permit.
  - The Chancellor's 2019 Spring statement had confirmed that the work visa cap for PhD degree holders had been lifted, that the results of the Augar review of post-18 education and funding would be released shortly, with the government's response to follow later in the year, and that the International Education Strategy and International Research and Innovation Strategy were forthcoming.
  - Indicative analysis had shown that OfS institutional subscription rates were forecast to increase for a third time and that the rates had increased following each consultation.
  - The OfS had its focus on the following areas of concern: access and participation; mental health and wellbeing of students; grade inflation; essay mills; 'conditional unconditional' undergraduate offer-making and the undue pressure it may place on applicants.
  - That the University was looking forward to a number of upcoming visits from external stakeholders including representatives from Teagasc, CAFRE, DEFRA, Easton & Otley and West Suffolk Colleges and Dairy Crest. Harper Adams continued to perform exceptionally in external league tables.
  - The Deputy Vice-Chancellor was in the process of drafting a response to the Knowledge Excellence Framework (KEF).

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