

Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education

Terms of Reference

The overall mandate for this work is to identify and consider the issues relating to the long term sustainable funding of Higher Education in Ireland and to identify options for change for consideration by the Minister for Education and Skills.

It is envisaged that the overall work programme will be managed in six distinct modules, as outlined below. The six modules to be examined are:

1. *Demand*. To spell out the anticipated demographic growth in the Higher Education sector, drawing on work previously undertaken by the HEA, DES, ESRI and elsewhere. To review projected labour market requirements for graduates and the resulting implications for provision of places.
2. *Benefits*. To identify the benefits of higher education to the individual graduate and to the wider Irish economy and society – with reference to relevant research already underway. This work to include analysis of the economic and social benefits of greater levels of equity of access to higher education.
3. *Income/expenditure*. To establish the total funding available to HEIs from the state, students, the EU, research bodies, philanthropy etc. The work will also establish the current cost base, encompassing pay, non-pay and capital expenditure.
4. *Efficient and Effective Sector*. To report on efficiencies achieved by the sector during the 2009-2014 period, and to assess the potential for additional efficiencies to be achieved through the 2014-2019 period, and beyond.
5. *Measuring financial performance*. The work will identify benchmarks of financial performance, including a consideration of the merits of operating a unit cost approach. These benchmarks will be designed to inform future analysis of institutional performance via performance compacts.
6. *Long Term Funding*. The final module will provide an assessment of the long term funding requirements of the Higher Education sector, along with a set of funding options for consideration by the Minister for Education and Skills.

Members

Peter Cassells	Independent Chairperson
Mary Doyle	Deputy Chairperson – Department of Education & Skills
Ronan Powell	Professor of Finance, DCU
Tim Creedon	Former President of IT Tallaght
Joe O'Connor	Outgoing USI President
Brid Horan	Deputy Chief Executive, ESB Ireland
Sara Cantillon	School of Equality Studies, UCD
Tom Boland	Higher Education Authority
Seán Rowland	President of Hibernia College
Neil Ward	Adviser to the Minister for Education & Skills
John Burke	Department of Public Expenditure & Reform