



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

10 July 2020

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Glette,

Thank you for your email of 17 June, on behalf of the Brunel UCU Committee about the impact of COVID-19 on the Further and Higher Education sectors.

I have fond memories of visiting the University. I recognise the impact COVID-19 is having on the Further and Higher Education sectors and can assure you that the Government is doing all it can to offer support through this difficult time.

In terms of Further Education, the Education and Skills Funding Agency continued to pay grant funded providers their scheduled monthly profiled payments for the remainder of the 2019-20 funding year. In addition, allocations for 2020-21 have been confirmed, and payments will be made in line with the national profile. For colleges in significant financial difficulties, the existing support arrangements remain in place, including short-term emergency funding.

In the Higher Education sector, we listened to calls for stabilisation and announced a package of measures to achieve this; we are pulling forward an estimated £2.6 billion worth of forecast tuition fee payments to ease cash flow pressure this autumn, and £100 million in quality-related research funding for Higher Education providers in England and have introduced measures to stabilise admissions for this autumn.

Furthermore, the extensive and unprecedented package of support measures for businesses and employees announced by the Chancellor of Exchequer in March applied to both sectors. The Office for Students estimates that across the Higher Education sector alone, these schemes could be worth at least £700 million depending on eligibility and take up.

I will share the research findings you refer to with the Secretary of State for Education who will be monitoring this suite of measures and working closely with his counterparts across Government.

Let me assure you, we are pulling out all the stops to attract international students back to Britain, working with colleagues in the Devolved Administrations and the sector to drill home the message that Higher Education in the UK is 'open for business', remains world class and is looking forward to welcoming them in the future.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. S. V. White' on the top line and 'R. S.' on the bottom line, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms Colette Maxfield