



Brunel UCU Branch  
Brunel University London  
Kingston Lane  
Uxbridge  
UB8 3PH

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

17th June 2020

Dear Boris Johnson,

Of the 70,365 voters in Uxbridge and South Ruislip, it is estimated that 10,680 are students in further and higher education. An estimated 3,210 staff work in higher education institutions within this constituency.

We are writing on behalf of staff and students working within Brunel University to ask for your help in ensuring the government protects post-16 education and provides much-needed stability for staff and students in the face of the current Covid-19 crisis.

Our sector has always been a critical part of the social and economic fabric of the UK and will be crucial to our country's recovery from the current crisis.

Staff in the sector responded magnificently in the early days of the pandemic and continue to do so.

Unsurprisingly, though, the crisis is still causing huge uncertainty and without urgent action from the government we risk losing vital educational capacity just when it will be needed most. The country cannot afford to push tens of thousands of teachers, researchers, and education professionals into unemployment at a time when we will need education to be a key driver of recovery.

The education unions have already called on government to take action and whilst there appears to have been recognition in Westminster of the importance of further and higher education, the very limited proposals and actions taken so far have been inadequate to the challenges the sector faces and to the crucial task of maintaining the confidence of students and staff.

A recent report by London Economics highlighted a potential £2.5bn loss of income from tuition fees and teaching grants for UK universities, an estimated loss of 30,000 sector jobs, with a further 32,000 jobs threatened throughout the wider economy. This analysis has been confirmed by the recent large scale study of international students' intentions undertaken by the British Council. In the worst case scenario, the Council predicts losses to the sector of around £2bn from international students alone.

The sector needs a clear and coherent plan aimed at retaining capacity and maximising the positive impact that further and higher education can make.

As part of a key, community-based institution within your constituency, we would be grateful if you could, on our behalf, urge both the Secretary of State for Education and Treasury to take more action to protect these important sectors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Brunel UCU Committee