

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Agency: TEQSA

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000787

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

TEQSA - UK move to a risk-based assessment model

Question

I understand that TEQSA's equivalent in the UK has moved to a risk-based assessment model. Why did the UK move in that direction, and how successful has it been? What are the advantages of a risk-based model? What are the problems with implementing and maintaining it? Has the UK moved away from periodic peer review of providers altogether? Why, or why not?

Answer

The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) has provided the following response.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), which conducts external reviews of higher education providers across the UK, moved to risk-based methods of review in England, Northern Ireland and Wales between 2013 and 2015. Scotland has not adopted a risk-based approach.

The move to a risk-based approach was initiated as part of Government proposals to reform the regulatory framework for higher education. The purposes were to focus scrutiny on providers without an established track record or about whom significant concerns had been raised; to reduce regulatory and administrative burden; and to improve institutional accountability to students.

The success of the new method was to have been determined by a review in 2015-16. However, that has now been overtaken by fresh Government proposals to establish a Teaching Excellence Framework which, building on a risk-based approach, will also seek to identify and reward teaching excellence in higher education providers.