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UK Developments: Higher Education Act

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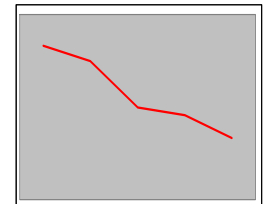
Setting the Scene

Expansion 1989-2002

Student Numbers +94%



Public Funding -37%



Student Fee Introduced 1998

Continued Underfunding - £9 billion



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The Bologna Process

- | No reference to Bologna in the White paper
- | Fee proposals will apply to EU students
- | The creation of universities which do not have power to award doctorates



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HE Bill Proposals

Variable Fees – up to £3,000

Student Support:

Deferred Fees paid after graduation

No real interest rate

Grants & Bursaries – up to £3,000

Loan wiped out after 25 years





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HE Bill Proposals

Office for Fair Access (OFFA)

Widening Participation

Wales

Devolution of fee policy

Assembly power to 'promote
higher education'

Scotland

No fee increase

Opposition to Proposals

Education should be free





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Support for Proposals

For Variability:

**Flexibility for universities to
respond to circumstances**

**Progressive rather than
regressive taxation**

For increased income:

Infrastructure needs



Opposition to proposals

- | Benefit some universities more than others
- | Deter poor students from pursuing expensive courses or those not leading to well-paid jobs



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Sector Concerns

Office for Fair Access (OFFA):

Widening Access through encouraging applications

But **NOT** involved in admissions

Funding must be additional

Bursaries too large



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After the Act

Wales – ‘Promotion of higher education’

Scotland – increased public funding

Bursaries vs Benefits

For the Poorest Students:

Bursaries – Benefits = 0!



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New System

**30% increase per EU full time
undergraduate**

BUT still taught at a loss

Part-time students?

Postgraduate students?

International students?





Conclusion

‘A politically courageous Act, but only if extra money remains additional to Public Funding’

Professor Roderick Floud