

Devolved higher education in the UK – as at August 2016 – Draft for comment 18 August 2016

	Oversight and Regulation	Funding and tuition fees	Governance	Quality	Student complaints
England	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is funder and regulator. HE Bill foreshadows Office for Students (OfS).	HEFCE-funded institutions with an Access Agreement with the Office for Fair Access (Ofa) can charge up to £9k for Home/EU students; without an access agreement £6k is the max. Student Loans Company (SLC) lends to Home/EU students for tuition fees and living costs. Unregulated for overseas. HEFCE funds research and some limited teaching support.	CUC Higher Education Code of Code of Governance linked to HEFCE Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability	QAA has responsibility. Under the new model for assuring quality and standards (March 2016) HEFCE (along with HEFCW and DfE) has contracted with QAA, Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) and Higher Education Academy (HEA) for different aspects of new system.	Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) deals with student complaints after universities have completed their internal processes
Wales	HEFCW is funder and regulator. New powers for HEFCW are being introduced. Hazelkorn review foreshadows possible creation of single funder and regulator for post-compulsory education.	HEFCW funded institutions with an agreed Fee Plan can charge up to £9k tuition fees for Home/EU students. Welsh-domiciled and EU student numbers are regulated; other student numbers are unregulated. Welsh-domiciled students receive funding to support tuition fees, meaning they pay £3.6k p/a. HEFCW funds research and some limited teaching support.	CUC Higher Education Code of Code of Governance referred to by HEFCW as an important component of its accounts direction to institutions	Framework is similar to that for England, but with some differences. HEFCW are considering the extent to which Wales should fit in with the developing framework of TEF etc.	Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) deals with student complaints after universities have completed their internal processes
Scotland	Scottish Funding Council (SFC) regulates and funds post-compulsory education.	No tuition fees for Scottish and non-UK EU domiciled students; £9k for rUK students; unregulated for overseas. Student Loans Company (SLC) lends to Home/EU students for tuition fees and living costs. <i>Outcomes Agreement</i> with SFC sets out agreed widening access, education, research and sustainability goals, and SFC funding and student numbers	SFC mandates that Scottish universities comply with the Scottish Code of Good HE Governance, with some additional points	A different methodology to the rest of the UK. QAA analyses annual institution-led (self) reviews, and reports on this to SFC; it also conducts periodic (four-yearly) enhancement-led institutional reviews of Scottish universities and reports to SFC.	Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) deals with student complaints after universities have completed their internal processes
Northern Ireland	The NI Government Department for the Economy (DfE) directly funds and regulates universities.	Northern Irish undergraduate students studying in Northern Irish publicly funded universities pay tuition fees of £3,925; other students pay up to £9k. NI students studying in rUK pay up to £9k. DfE directly funds universities for teaching and research	CUC Higher Education Code of Code of Governance covers NI universities, but DfE makes no specific mention of its provisions	DfE contracts to QAA its responsibilities for assuring the quality of education which it funds; it has signed up (with HEFCE and HEFCW) to the new model for assuring quality and standards.	Internal university procedures; externality, where it exists, via each university's Visitor or similar office