DOWNLOADABLE RESPONSE BOOKLET FOR THE

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION BIG CONVERSATION**

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

The consultation document can be downloaded from the DEL website:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/minister-statements/hebigconversation.htm>

# Respondent Information Form

**Please complete the following information.**

**Question One:**

**NAME:**

**Question Two:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will be taken to apply only to the information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraph below on the confidentiality of consultations and it will provide you with guidance on the legal position regarding any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Department will handle any personal data you provide appropriately in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. The right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential, any information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, the Department does have the responsibility to decide whether any information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

**Responses can be submitted electronically via e-mail or sent to the following address:**

Higher Education Consultation Team

Department for Employment and Learning

Adelaide House 6th Floor

39-49 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FD

E-mail: hefpb@delni.gov.uk

by **5pm on 23rd October 2015**

For further information:

Tel: (028) 902 57756

Email: hefpb@delni.gov.uk

The Department cannot accept responses by telephone. General enquiry calls may be made to the above number.

# Question Three:

# Which of the following best describes you?

Current higher education student:

Prospective higher education student:

Former higher education student:

Parent:

An employee of the higher education sector:

Employer:

A representative of an organisation (please specify):

Other (please specify):

**Please tick this box if you do not wish for your response to be published.**

**Please use the comment box below to explain why.**

**THE HIGHER EDUCATION BIG CONVERSATION**

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

The consultation will be open for submissions from 6th October 2015 until 23rd October 2015. The consultation document can be downloaded from the DEL website at:<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/ministerstatements/hebigconversation.htm>

Please use additional pages should you run out of space while answering any of the questions.

# THEME ONE: SKILLS AND ECONOMY

**Question Four:**

To what extent do you think that the existing higher education system supports Northern Ireland’s skills needs?

Very sufficently

Sufficently

Unsure

Insufficiently

Very insufficiently

Please explain your answer.

**Question Five:**

To what extent do you think that the existing higher education system supports Northern Ireland’s wider economic development?

Very sufficently

Sufficently

Unsure

Insufficiently

Very insufficiently

Please explain your answer.

**Question Six:**

To what extent do you think that disinvestment in higher education will intensify Northern Ireland’s skills shortages?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Seven:**

To what extent do you think that disinvestment in higher education will discourage potential investors from coming to Northern Ireland?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Eight:**

To what extent do you think that disinvestment in higher education will hinder Northern Ireland’s wider economic development?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Nine:**

Are there alternative models of higher education delivery which could better support Northern Ireland’s skills needs and wider economic development in the future?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

# THEME TWO: QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

**Question Ten:**

To what extent do you think that the existing higher education system supports high quality higher education provision in Northern Ireland?

Very sufficently

Sufficently

Unsure

Insufficiently

Very insufficiently

Please explain your answer.

**Question Eleven:**

To what extent do you think that the existing higher education system supports fair access to, and widens participation in, higher education in Northern Ireland?

Very sufficently

Sufficently

Unsure

Insufficiently

Very insufficiently

Please explain your answer.

**Question Twelve:**

To what extent do you think that the existing higher education system enables social mobility more broadly in Northern Ireland?

Very sufficently

Sufficently

Unsure

Insufficiently

Very insufficiently

Please explain your answer.

**Question Thirteen:**

To what extent do you think that disinvestment in higher education will undermine the quality of Northern Ireland’s higher education system, in both teaching and research?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Fourteen:**

Are there alternative models of higher education funding or delivery which you think could better support high quality higher education provision in Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

**Question Fifteen:**

To what extent do you think that disinvestment in higher education will undermine equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland, particularly for people from lower income backgrounds, people with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Sixteen:**

To what extent do you think that the adoption of exceptional application routes could help to address under-representation in higher education, particularly of disabled students?

Very significantly

Significantly

Unsure

Not significantly

Not at all

Please explain your answer.

**Question Seventeen:**

Are there alternative models of higher education funding or delivery which you think could better support fair access to higher education and equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

**Question Eighteen:**

Do you think that the existing higher education system strikes the right balance between: the quality of provision on the one hand; and the quantity of provision on the other?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

# THEME THREE: SUSTAINABILITY

**Question Nineteen:**

To what extent do you think the existing higher education system in Northern Ireland is sustainable?

Highly sustainable

Sustainable

Unsure

Unsustainable

Highly unsustainable

Please explain your answer.

**Question Twenty:**

Are there any other models of higher education delivery which you think could better support the needs of Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

**Question Twenty-One:**

Are there any other models of higher education funding which you think could better support the needs of Northern Ireland?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please explain your answer.

**Question Twenty-Two:**

Bearing in mind ongoing constraints on public spending in Northern Ireland, how do you think Northern Ireland’s higher education system could be put on a sustainable footing?

**Further Information**

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