

# The Rt Hon John Denham MP

Secretary of State for Innovation,  
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Department for  
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Universities &  
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## UNDERSTANDING INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE

Following my speech at the Wellcome Trust on 29 February, I would welcome your advice on an issue of considerable strategic importance to DIUS.

Measuring institutional performance and doing so in such a way as to recognise the individual missions of each institution is essential for the future of higher education.

I would be grateful for your considered advice on how we can best develop our understanding of institutions' performance in different dimensions. In particular I would like you to:

- Examine possible performance measures of quality in each of the areas identified in the grant letter – pure research, enabling businesses to innovate, high quality teaching, upskilling of workforces and widening participation
- Consider how such measures could take account of the different missions of individual institutions
- Minimise any requirements to collect new data in developing such measures
- Advise on any other matters which are, in the view of the Council, relevant to the assessment of performance

I would welcome your initial thoughts by the end of May, when I would like to meet with you to discuss progress and emerging issues. I hope that you can then deliver your considered views by September. That timetable will enable me to take full account as I develop the future agenda for the Department.

I am at the same time asking a number of other individuals and organisations to review other important policy questions within the HE sector, and I am publishing all the relevant commissioning letters on the DIUS website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Denham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JOHN DENHAM**