

8 February 2017

Professor David Richardson
Vice-Chancellor
The University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Earlham Road
Norwich
NR4 7TJ

Nicholson House
Lime Kiln Close
Stoke Gifford
BRISTOL
BS34 8SR

Direct Line	0117 931 7455
E-mail	m.atkins@hefce.ac.uk
REF:	QA/HEI/NC/067

Dear Professor Richardson

Annual Provider Review preliminary assessment

1. In March 2016, the higher education funding bodies in England and Northern Ireland published a revised operating model for quality assessment for implementation from 2016-17¹. The new operating model is designed to be proportionate, risk-based, and grounded in the context for an individual provider and its students.
2. From 2016-17, the Annual Provider Review (APR) is the core mechanism used to assess quality in the higher education providers that we fund. Its key features are:
 - it draws on existing data and information
 - indicators and metrics are used in a contextualised and rounded way
 - existing risk processes are used to make more consistent judgements about financial sustainability and good management and governance.
3. In October 2016 we published detailed guidance on the APR process² describing how APR draws together key pieces of data and other information about each provider and presents this in a dashboard for scrutiny by the HEFCE APR Group, and subsequently, on quality and standards matters, by the Council's independent Quality Committee.
4. As the first stage of the process, the HEFCE APR Group has considered the profile of each provider in two areas: (i) quality and standards; and (ii) financial sustainability, good management and governance.

¹ The Revised operating model for quality assessment can be found here: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2016/201603/>

² See <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/Year/2016/201629/>

5. The APR Group identified **no concerns on quality and standards matters** in its preliminary assessment for your institution. This means that it will provide the following classification to HEFCE's Quality Committee:

‘The APR Group has no concerns following its preliminary assessment’

6. The Quality Committee will then make final peer judgements about quality and standards matters. Further information about the Quality Committee process can be found in Annex A of the detailed guidance on the APR process.
7. The APR Group identified **no concerns on financial sustainability, good management and governance matters** in its preliminary assessment for your institution. At its next meeting, the HEFCE APR Group will determine your final risk categorisation: we expect this to be ‘not at higher risk’. We may, however, wish to draw your attention to areas for further consideration or action.
8. Our final risk categorisation, together with the Quality Committee's judgement on quality and standards matters, will be communicated to you at the end of April via the annual risk assessment letter. The outcomes of the quality and standards aspects of the APR process will also be published on HEFCE's Register of higher education providers.
9. If you have any questions about the APR process, please refer to the published guidance³ or contact the Quality Assessment team via qualityassessment@hefce.ac.uk.
10. As it is the responsibility of an institution's governing body to ensure that risks are identified and managed effectively, we have copied this letter to the Chair of your governing body.
11. This letter is provided in confidence to **The University of East Anglia**. We have no objection to it being made available to third parties, but we do not accept responsibility for any reliance a third party may place on its contents. We have no plans to release the information contained in this letter, other than the publication of the final outcomes of the quality and standards aspects of the APR process on HEFCE's Register of higher education providers, but we ask you to consider carefully the implications of any public disclosure you may wish to make, or are asked to make. As you know, we are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the content of this letter may be disclosable if a request is made to us under that Act.

³ See <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/Year/2016/201629/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine S. Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a stylized 'A'.

Professor Madeleine Atkins
Chief Executive

Cc: Chair of governing body