Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, Secretary of State for Education

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan, Minister of State for Universities

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1

1 November 2021

Dear Nadhim and Michelle

**Office for Students**

I am writing to confirm my resignation as chief executive of the Office for Students with effect from 1 May 2022.

By next summer I will have been in this role for five years. We are just about to consult on a new strategy, our new Director for Fair Access and Participation will be starting in January 2022, and Lord Wharton is now well established as our new chair. It feels like the right time to move on and hand over to a new chief executive who will bring fresh momentum to the next phase of the OfS’s important work.

I am enormously proud of all that we have achieved since we were set up in 2018. We have established ourselves as a new regulator for students in a sector that has never been regulated in this way before. We have developed a robust and innovative approach to regulating quality and equality of opportunity, taken decisive action in a number of cases where quality and governance were inadequate, and overseen demonstrable progress on social mobility. We worked closely and effectively with government during the disruption of the pandemic, and ensured that there were no disorderly university failures. Our new strategy, on which we are about to consult, is proportionate and informed. I leave a strong team who are well positioned to take forward its implementation.

It has been a real pleasure and privilege working with you both, Lord Wharton as OfS chair, and colleagues in the Department for Education, and I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with you over the next six months.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Dandridge

cc Lord Wharton, Iain Mansfield, Paul Kett, Nolan Smith