**QAA Application to be the Designated Quality Body**

We believe that it is essential for the Designated Quality Body (DQB) to have extensive experience and knowledge of the higher education sector and therefore support the QAA, given its long record of engagement with the sector, being appointed as the DQB. We note that the QAA made co-regulation central to its expression of interest to be the DQB and would want to emphasise the importance of this principle. It is vital that the QAA continues to work closely with universities in the creation of regulatory structures and in the manner in which the operation of those structures is implemented and monitored.

We appreciate the measures to ensure transparency of fees that are set out in the QAA’s expression of interest, but would go further in expecting efficiency and the minimising of the fees charged to institutions as being central to the operation of the QAA. We are conscious that the fees charged by the QAA will be in addition to those that are being imposed by the OfS and believe it important that the funds being diverted from our education and research mission should be kept to a minimum.

We believe the experience the QAA has in working with regulatory agencies in other countries is integral to the carrying out of its remit; the continuing growth in transnational education renders this aspect of particular importance and duplication of regulatory burdens on institutions operating across borders needs to be avoided. Much the same is true of the QAA’s experience in working with Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs), where we would expect the requirements of PSRBs to be weaved into the overall regulatory framework in a manner that promotes efficiency.