

# OfS update

Office for  
Students



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NEON Summit

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# Summary

- Time-limited condition of registration (Z3)
- OfS's admissions review and next steps
- Any questions

# Time-limited condition Z3 (Sector stability and integrity)

- Introduced in July 2020 following a consultation
- Ends on **30 September 2021**
  - We will consult if we are minded to remove Z3 before that date **or** if we want Z3, or similar, to extend beyond that date
- ‘Stability and/or Integrity’ are defined in Z3 as:
  - financial and economic matters;
  - matters that may affect or distort decision making by prospective or current students in respect of their choice of higher education provider or course; and
  - matters that may affect public trust and confidence in the English Higher Education Sector.

# What does Z3 cover?

- An overarching principles-based prohibition
  - Conduct that **in the reasonable opinion of the OfS could be expected to have a material negative effect on the stability and/or integrity of the sector**
  - Certain offer-making and advertising and marketing practices
- Within this over-arching prohibition, there are **two** specific categories of conduct:
  - Conduct that is **prohibited** in all circumstances
    - ‘Conditional’ unconditional offers to UK-domiciled applicants (conditional on making the provider the first (or only) choice)
    - Making false or misleading statements about other providers
  - Conduct that is **permitted** in all circumstances
    - Unconditional offers to UK-domiciled applicants in some specified circumstances including for applicants who already hold A-levels (or equivalent) and applicants to creative courses such as art, music and drama, where they are assessed by audition or portfolio
    - Contextual offers

# What does Z3 cover?

- Other forms of **unconditional offer-making** to UK-domiciled applicants **and** other forms of **advertising or marketing** for the provision of HE (involving statements about other providers), fall to be considered under the **over-arching prohibition**
- Where we become aware of an increased risk of a provider acting in a way that may not be compliant with Z3, we are likely to impose targeted requirements for information

# OfS Admissions review

- Launched 27 February 2020
- Broad in scope – including home/EU/international students, UG and PG, full-time and part-time, mature, distance-learning, work-based learning
- Seeking views on:
  - Principles for a reliable, fair and inclusive admissions system
  - Ten issues across each stage of an applicant's experience of the admissions process (with respondents invited to identify any further issues)
  - Future approaches including:
    - reforms to the current admissions system;
    - post-qualification offers (PQO); and
    - post-qualification applications (PQA)

# Next steps

- Admissions review paused in March 2020 and will relaunch no earlier than Autumn 2021-22
  - Potential significant impact of pandemic on 2021-22 admissions cycle
  - Avoid placing additional regulatory burden on providers
- We will work with students and stakeholders before deciding when and how to relaunch the review
- We are working closely with the sector, government and stakeholders with the aim of making sure that the 2021-22 cycle is fair and gives all students the right to choose the right course for them
- We stand ready to work with government and stakeholders on any reforms to the admissions system that are proposed or consulted on

**Questions**

**QUESTIONS?**



# How to find out more

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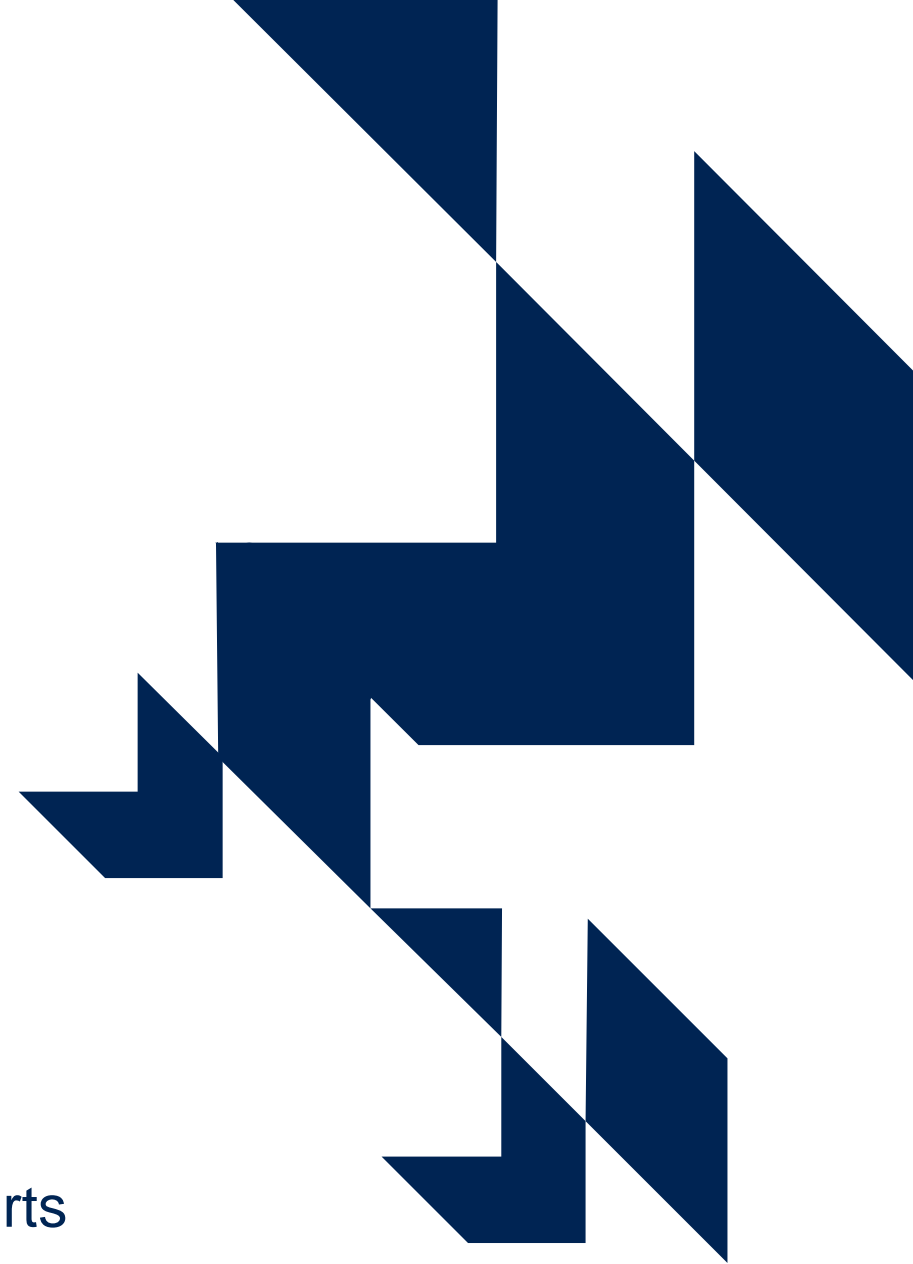
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