

# Higher Education Reforms: A journalist's perspective

Jack Grove – Times Higher  
Education

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# Where did it all start?

- Peter Mandelson, July 2009, hints at tuition fee rise “higher education is not cheap”
- Browne Review launched in November 2009, first evidence call in December
- Published in October 2010
- Business Secretary Vince Cable moves motion to lift fee cap to £9,000 a year, Dec



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December 9, 2010





June 2012

Total applicants: 2011: 669,956,  
2012: 618,247

Overall : Down by -51,709 or 7.7%

UK applicants down by 50,339 or 8.4%

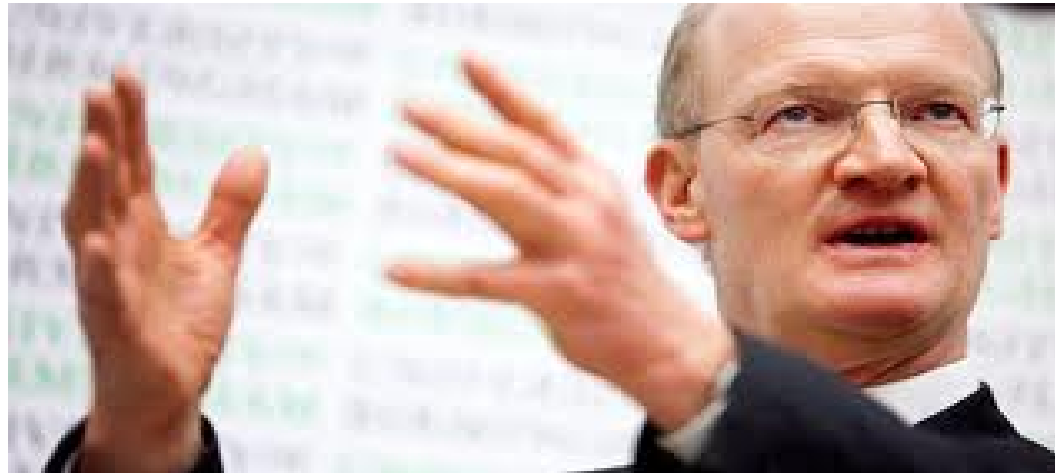
English applicants down by 47,835 or 10%

English institutions down by 8.6 per cent

Smaller decreases for 18-year-olds, fewer mature students, fewer EU, more non-EU

# No need to worry?

- Demand outstripping supply



- About 465,000 students started higher education in 2011, so places should be filled

# Engineering – Doing pretty well?

- 2011: 140,963 - UCAS stats, June 2012
- 2012: 137,275 – Drop of 3,688 or -2.6%
  
- European languages down 11.7 %
- History and philosophy down 7.1%
- Creative arts and design down 16.3 % (big subject group: 302,000 in 2011, 252,000 in 2012)

# Shock for the sector – Sep 2012



- England: 340,500, -54,200 (-14 per cent)
- Wales: 21,500, -3,300 (-13 per cent)

# 56,000 shortfall - Why?

- Fewer AAB students



AAB+ students 79,200, -14,100 (-15 %)

Non- 'AAB+' set: 223,000, -37,900 (-15%)



# Who has been affected?

- Russell Group badly hit



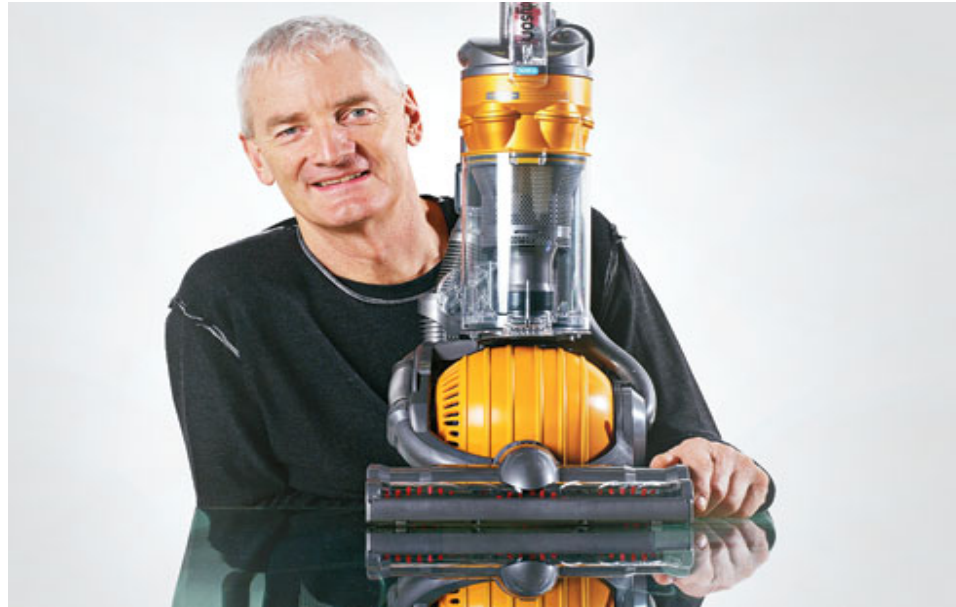
# Who has been hit?

- Southampton – 600 down (“par for the course”)
- Manchester – 500 down
- Unconfirmed – Leeds and Liverpool? 600+ down, Nottingham, 500, Queen Mary 400,
- Only Bristol and UCL (maybe Durham) have made targets, source says
- 1994 Group done well due to low AAB quota + aggressive recruitment strategies

# Postgraduate worries

- Impact of £9k fees on postgraduate numbers from 2015
- Half the intake of comprehensive universities are postgrad (Whitty, 2012), excluding specialist institutions
- International competition





- Sir James Dyson - crisis of recruitment of UK based postgraduate engineering students.
- He claimed that, in 2008, only 70 out of 3,825 additional postgraduate engineering students were from the UK
- Shortfall of 50,000 - to rise to 200,000 in two years, 2012
- If companies are struggling to find the skilled staff they consider relocation.
- Pay postgrad researchers up to £40k a year – more than their lecturers? More than at Dyson - £30k?

# Growing postgraduate sector over the past decade

- Enrolment onto postgraduate courses has increased steadily - rising by 20.5% and taught enrolments rising by 34.3% between 2002 and 2010.
- Rise due to uptake by international students - in PGT, international enrolments up 105.8%, home students 15.8% (Higher Education Commission, 2012)

# Problems of postgraduate funding

- The majority of PGT students receive no financial support towards the cost of their tuition – save a small interest rate subsidy from the government through state-supported Professional and Career Development Loans.
- HESA data from 2010-11 suggests that 8.4% of all PGT students were supported by their institution through fee waivers or similar.
- Only 0.4% were supported by the Research Councils - support for taught postgraduate study has increasingly been phased out.
- 10.8% of all PGT students funded by employers

# Postgraduate research

- Some funding from the Research Councils (16% in 2010-11) or their institutions (20.5% in 2010-11) (HESA)
- 3.7% of all PGR students are funded by charitable organisations.
- 3.7% of all research students are funded by their employer,
- 37.6% of all postgraduate research students appear to be completely self-funded.
- Higher in the arts and humanities + part-time students (61.7% receive no financial backing), (Higher Education Commission, 2012, p.50).