

Consultation Response Form

Fair admissions to higher education: draft recommendations for consultation

The closing date for this consultation is 28 May 2004

This consultation is primarily aimed at:

- Institutions Offering Higher Education
- Schools and Colleges
- Young People
- Organisations Working with/Advising Young People
- Students' Unions
- Employers' Organisations

The information you send us may be passed to colleagues and/or published in a summary of responses received in response to this consultation. We will assume that you are content for us to do this, and that if you are replying by e-mail, your consent overrides any confidentiality disclaimer that is generated by your organisation's IT system, unless you specifically include a request to the contrary in the main text of your submission to us.

We may make individual consultation responses available in the public domain. This will extend to your comments unless you inform us that you wish them to remain confidential.

Please insert 'X' if you want us to keep your response confidential

Name

Organisation (if applicable)

Address

Queries:

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Sophie Parsons:

Telephone: 0114 259 1619

Fax: 0114 259 3805

Email: Admissions.Review-Enquiries@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794311

Email: Consultation.Unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Please insert 'X' in the following box that best describes you as a respondent

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other HE Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State/Maintained School | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Form College | <input type="checkbox"/> Students' Union |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FE College providing HE | <input type="checkbox"/> FE College without HE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Union | <input type="checkbox"/> Connexions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Agency / Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Question 1

Do you agree that the following should be high-level principles of fair admissions? (See Section D of the consultation paper)

(a) A fair admissions system should be transparent (see paras D4 – D7 of the consultation paper)

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

(b) A fair admissions system should strive to use assessment methods which are reliable and valid (see paras D8 – D11 of the consultation paper)

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

(c) A fair admissions system should enable institutions to select students who are able to complete the course as judged by their achievements and potential (see paras D12 – D17 of the consultation paper)

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

(d) A fair admissions system should seek to minimise barriers for applicants (see paras D18 – D21 of the consultation paper)

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

(e) A fair admissions system should be professional in every respect (see paras D22 – D25 of the consultation paper)

Strongly Agree Agree Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

Comments:

Question 2

What other high-level principles or practical recommendations not mentioned in the consultation paper might help ensure fair admissions for all applicants, whatever their age, background, or route into higher education?

Comments:

Question 3

Do you agree that the wider recommendations outlined in Section E would help make admissions fairer?

(a) more consistent implementation of the QAA Code of Practice (see paras E2 and E3)

Yes No Not Sure

(b) a degree of centralisation of the admissions process within institutions (see paras E2 and E4)

Yes No Not Sure

(c) standard use of electronic application forms (see paras E2 and E5)

Yes No Not Sure

(d) improving information provision through redesign of application forms (see paras E6 and E7)

Yes No Not Sure

(e) collaborative review of compact and similar schemes (see para E9)

Yes No Not Sure

(f) the introduction of a broader 14 – 19 qualification that would allow the testing of aptitude, potential and relevant skills as well as academic achievement (see para E10i)

Yes No Not Sure

(g) greater co-ordination of admissions tests across the sector (see para E10ii)

Yes No Not Sure

(h) making more use of existing information rather than developing new admissions tests (see para E10iii)

Yes No Not Sure

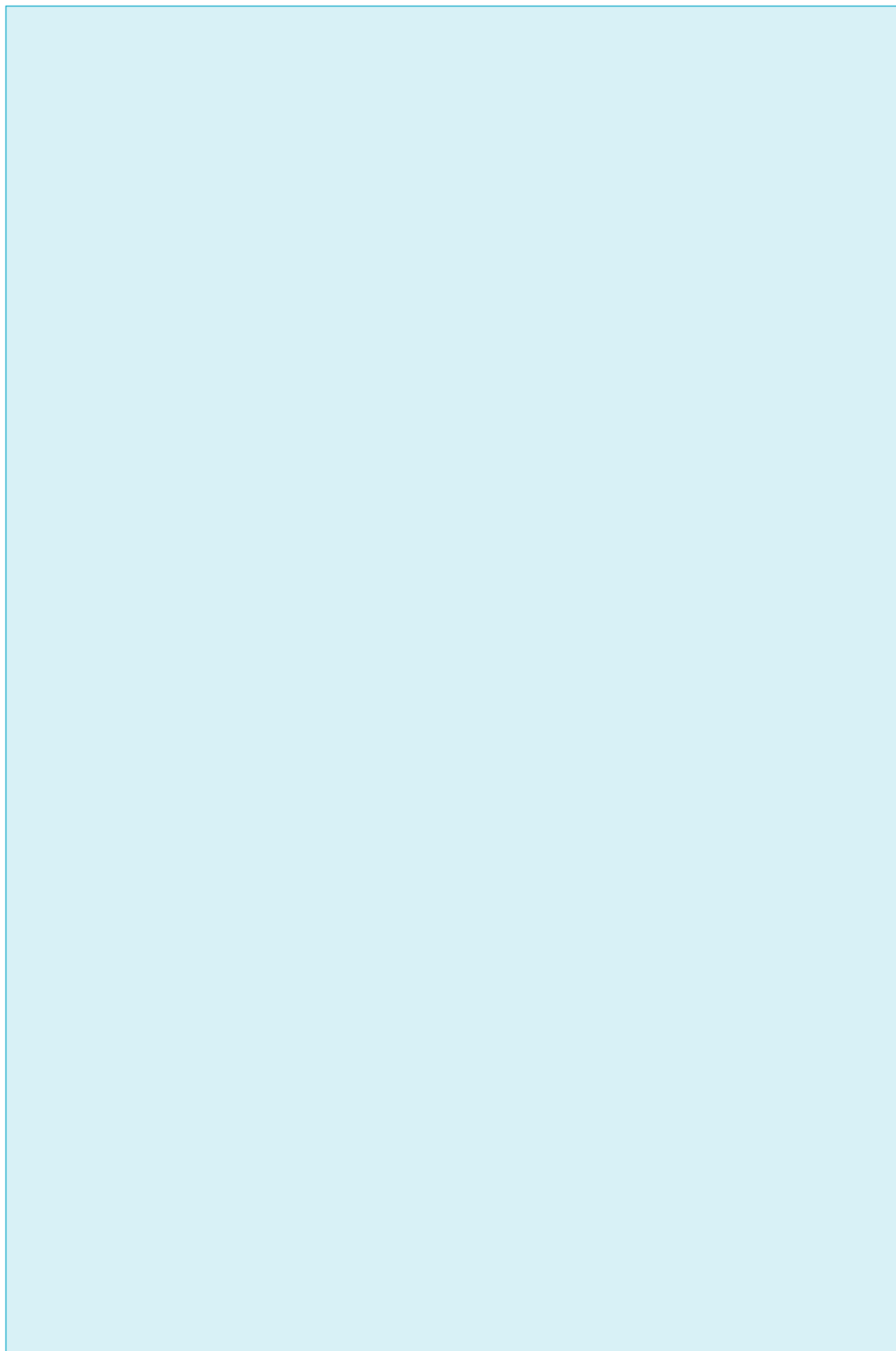
(i) common interviews (see para E10iv)

Yes No Not Sure

(j) a central source of expertise on admissions (see para E13)

Yes No Not Sure

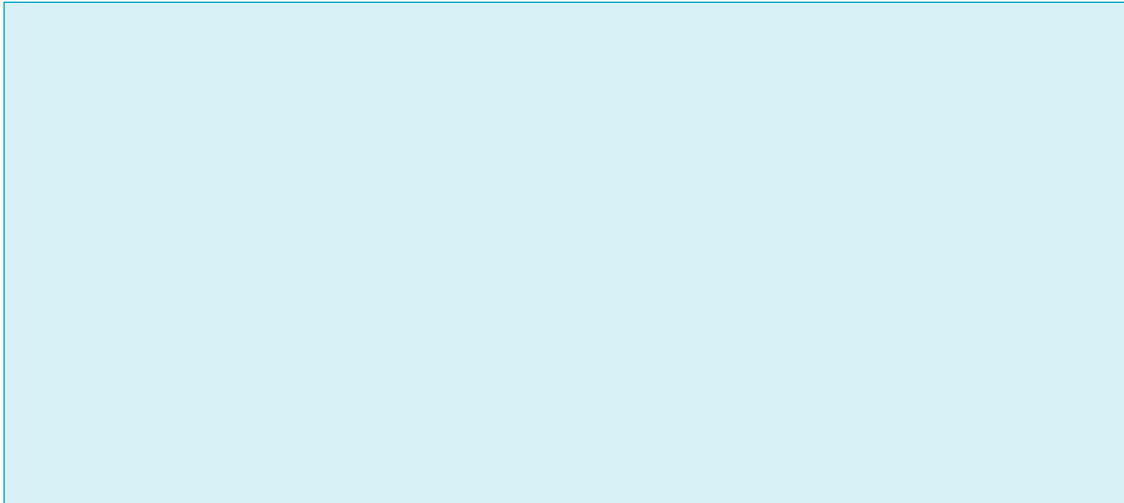
Comments:



Question 4

Do you have any comments on the options for assessing merit? (see paras F5 – F8 of the consultation paper)

Comments:

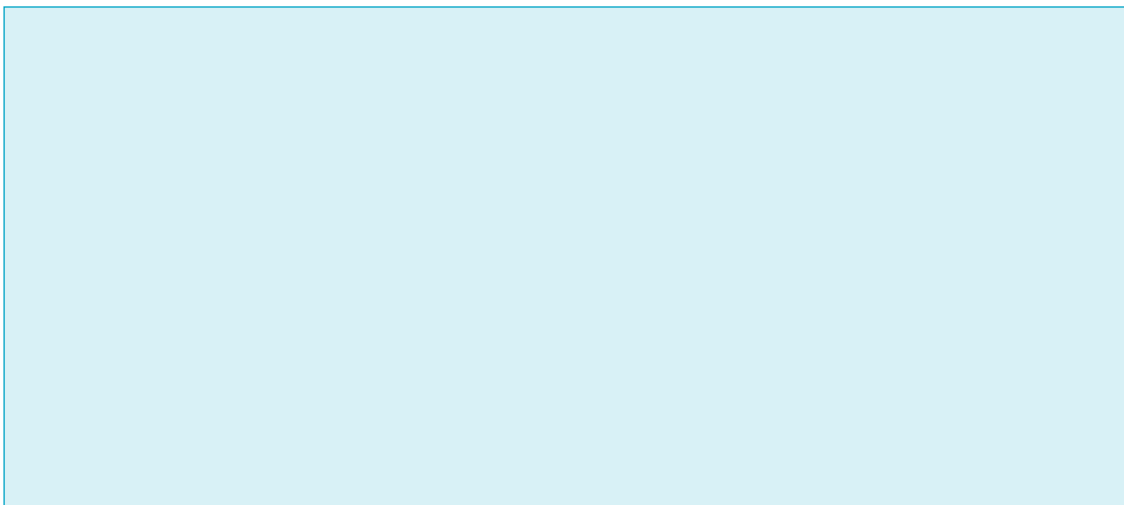


Question 5a

Do you agree that a mechanism should be found to encourage adoption of the high-level principles of fair admissions and review progress on their implementation? (See Section G of the consultation paper)

Yes No Not Sure

Comments:



Question 5b

If so, do you favour voluntary inclusion of admissions information within access agreements for the proposed Office for Fair Access (OFFA) - see para G2(i); or a role for HEFCE - see para G2(ii)?

OFFA Yes No Not Sure
HEFCE Yes No Not Sure

Comments:

Question 5c

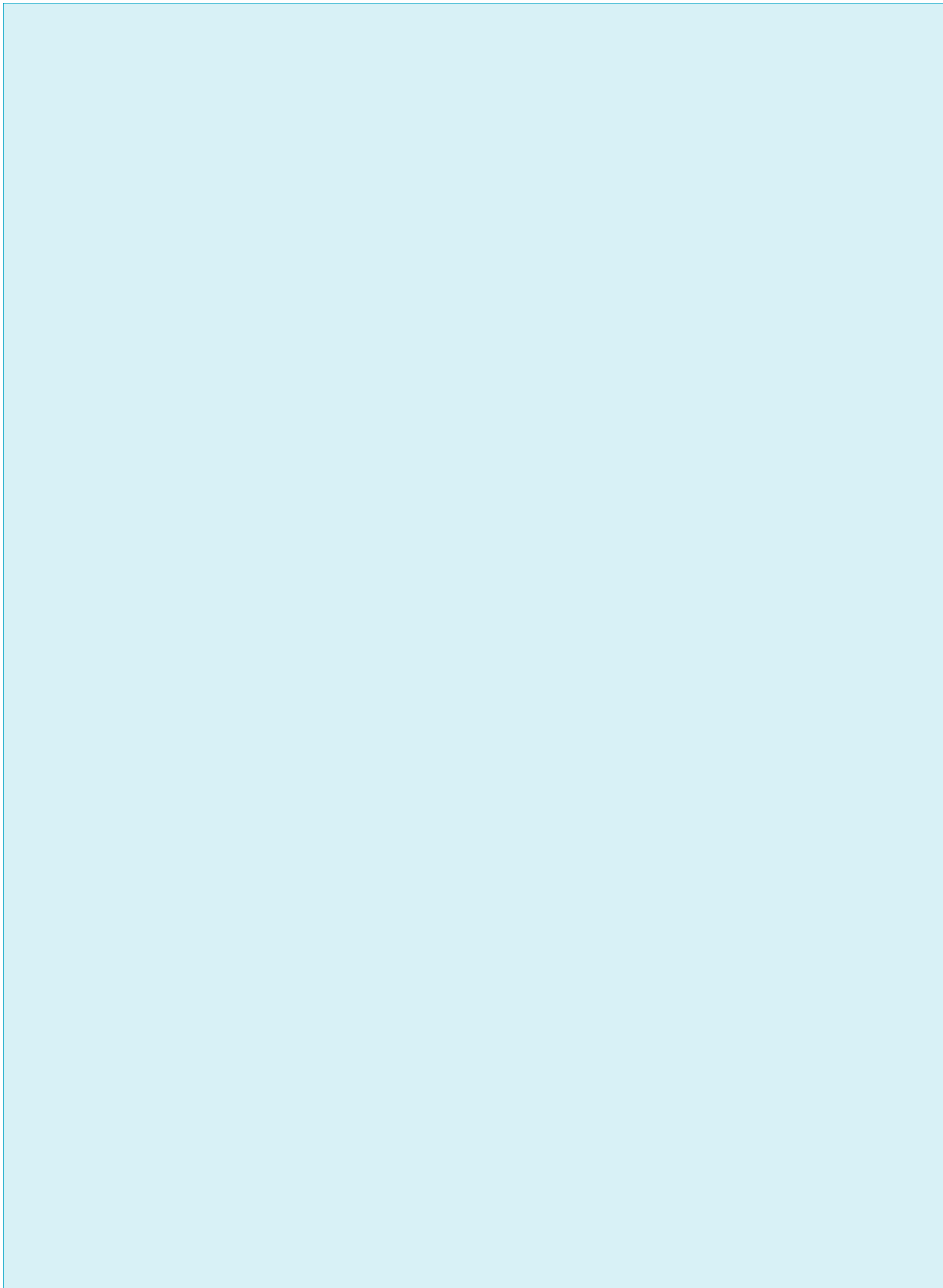
Are there any other mechanisms which you think should be considered to encourage adoption of the principles of fair admissions?

Comments:

Question 6

Do you have any comments on the initial impact assessment? (mentioned in para H1 of the consultation paper and available on the website at www.admissions-review.org.uk)

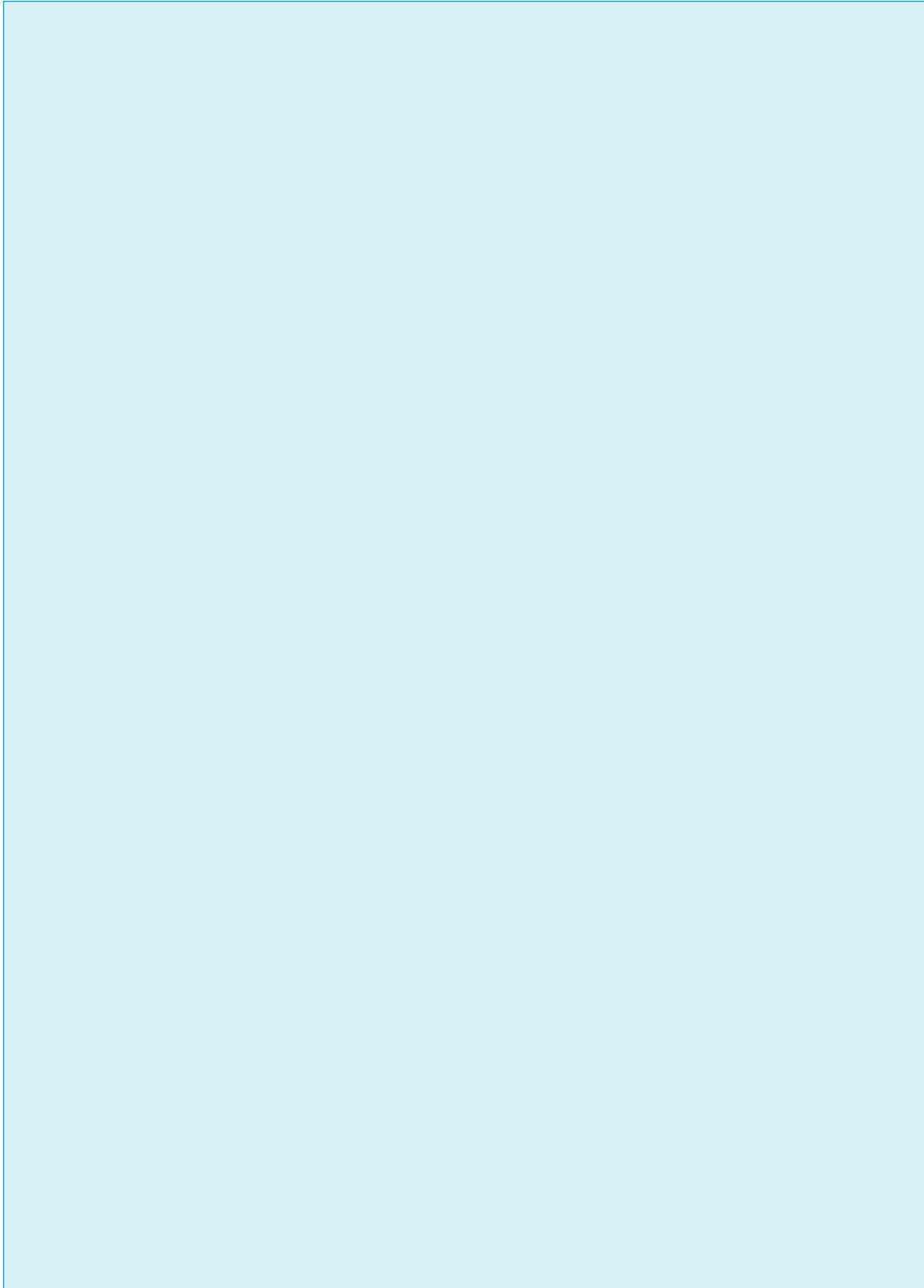
Comments:



Question 7

Do you have any other comments on any issues covered in the consultation paper?

Comments:



Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

As your views are valuable to us, would you allow us please to contact you again or to send you further consultation documents?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

This consultation is part of the independent review of admissions being undertaken by Professor Steven Schwartz and his Steering Group. The Steering Group has commissioned the Consultation Unit at the Department for Education and Skills to collect and analyse responses.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by **28 May 2004**.

Send by post to: **Admissions to Higher Education Review, Consultation Unit, Level 2, Area A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, WA7 2GJ**

Fax: **01928 794311**

Send by e-mail: Once you have completed the questionnaire, save it on your hard drive and then open an e-mail to: admissions.review@dfes.gsi.gov.uk and attach the completed questionnaire file and send the e-mail.

