



## **Policy on the Disclosure of Records Relating to Applications for Degree Awarding Powers and University Title**

### **England**

Following the updated criteria and guidance for degree awarding powers and university title for applicants in England issued by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in September and October 2015, QAA has revised its policy on the disclosure of records relating to applications for degree awarding powers and university title in England.

All records are closed until the Privy Council's decision has been made public.

Once BIS has notified us of the outcome, QAA will publish the final scrutiny team report on its website. The report will have been sent to the applicant organisation at the end of the detailed scrutiny of its application. The published report may still be subject to commercial interest amendments.

After BIS has notified us of the outcome, access to the following records will be given on request:

- documents supplied by an applicant organisation that are already in the public domain
- routine administrative information
- Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP) minutes, excluding the annexes prepared for the Board relating to final reports, with reference to ongoing scrutiny activity removed
- publicly available documents and reference material used by ACDAP
- Board minutes (currently available on the QAA website)
- QAA's advice to the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Ten years after the Privy Council's decision, access will be given, on request, to all remaining degree awarding powers and university title records, subject to any remaining issues of commercial confidentiality.

## Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

On 17 July 2008, the QAA Board approved a revised policy on the disclosure of records relating to applications for degree awarding powers and university title (DAPUT). It was amended following a public consultation exercise in March 2009.

All records are closed until the decision of the Privy Council has been made public.

After the Privy Council's decision has been notified to us, access to the following records will be given on request:

- documents supplied by an applicant organisation that are already in the public domain
- routine administrative information
- Advisory Committee on Degree Awarding Powers (ACDAP) minutes from July 2008 forward, excluding the annexes prepared for the Board relating to final reports, with reference to ongoing scrutiny activity removed
- publicly available documents and reference material used by ACDAP
- Board minutes (currently available the QAA website)
- QAA's advice to the Privy Council.

Following publication of the first review report after the grant of degree awarding powers, or five years after the Privy Council's decision, whichever is the longer, access will be given to the final scrutiny team report (which will have been sent to the organisation concerned at the end of the detailed scrutiny of its application). The report may still be subject to commercial interest amendments. The applicant organisation may grant access to the report before this time.

Ten years after the Privy Council's decision, access will be given, on request, to all remaining DAPUT records, subject to any remaining issues of commercial confidentiality.