

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eversheds Report

London Metropolitan University today released a summary report by the legal firm Eversheds of investigations carried out into the role of senior staff of the University mentioned in the Melville and Deloitte reports. These two earlier reports, commissioned by the University in 2009, followed serious issues that had arisen with the Higher Education Council of England (HEFCE) over student data accuracy, and in particular student completion data accuracy. These issues led to a funding claw back of £36.5M from HEFCE, the departure of the former Vice-Chancellor in March 2009, and an agreement for a staged departure of the independent Governors of the University during 2010.

On the basis of investigations carried out during January to July 2010 Eversheds concluded that there was "no evidence that there was any attempt or collusion to manipulate the student records system or to code the software running the system to maximise the number of completions returned to HESES or HESA", and that no disciplinary action should be taken.

The fully reconstituted Board of Governors on 29 September received this independent report and agreed to its public release.

The Board recognised that there had been systematic flaws in the way that London Met was managed, hence the root-and-branch reviews that are now being undertaken as part of the University's new strategic plan, Transforming Lives, Meeting Needs, Building Careers.

The Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr Clive Jones, stated: "We now look forward to rebuilding community confidence in the marvellous institution that is London Met. The current climate is one of revision, repositioning and rebuilding of trust in the University. We applaud the priorities of the new Strategic Plan with its emphasis upon the quality of student learning and the importance of serving the very diverse body of students who study at London Met."

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