**Timeline of Reform in UK Post Compulsory Education 1992-2012**

**1992**

**(9 May) Conservative majority Government elected, led by John Major**

***The Further and Higher Education Act***

…which ended the binary divide between universities and polytechnics, enabling institutions offering HE to apply for university status and award their own degrees; and established the new funding councils, e.g. HEFCE in England, and FEFC to fund FE colleges which were opted out of LEA control to become corporations.

**Teaching and Learning Technology Programme -** ends 2001

**Choosing To Change** – David Robertson (HEQC) – Credit schemes

**1994**

**Teaching Quality Assessment** starts

**1995**

**Electronic Libraries Programme** launched

**Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning** – first round – programme ends after fifth round 2009

**1996**

 ***Inclusive Learning: Report of the Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities Committee* – The Tomlinson Report**

…which adopted a person first approach, i.e. all students are first and foremost learners, and marked an official move away from a deficit model to an enabling model, inviting educational establishments to ask if they were prepared for students rather than vice versa.

**Enterprise in Higher Education** ends.

**1997**

**(1 May) Labour majority Government elected, led by Tony Blair**

**HEQC Graduate standards report**

***National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education* – The Dearing Report**

…which saw widening participation as a key goal, where sub-degree and lifelong learning should be encouraged; also the need for more effective teaching and learning strategies – an Institute for Learning and Teaching proposed; also where beneficiaries of HE should pay part of the costs – a student fee proposal: also proposed a national qualifications framework and a means to maintain degree standards - a quality agency proposed with benchmarking and control of franchising; and proposed wider learning experiences for students, in the form of personal development planning and key skills.

**The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)**

…which established an academic infrastructure for UK HE, including subject benchmarking, academic level descriptors, programme specifications, and precepts; and standards to be monitored by a new process of institution subject-based peer review.

**1998**

***Teaching and Higher Education Act***

…which introduced tuition fees for students, and student loans rather than maintenance grants for students, but poor students to be protected by safety net support.

**Widening Participation funding** from HEFCE

**1999**

***Learning to Succeed: a new framework for post-16 learning* (White Paper)**

…which proposed a Learning and Skills Council (with regional offices) to fund FE – to replace the FEFC; a proposal to replace the inspection of FE colleges by the FEFC with Ofsted; and a proposal to strengthen the role of National Training Organisations (NTOs - established in 1992) – FENTO then began work on the first set of professional standards for FE teachers.

**The Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund (TQEF)**

**…** HEFC announces a unified fund to support the development, research and dissemination of good practice in HE learning and teaching, with three strands: institutional; subject/discipline; individual; and funds the 24 Subject Centres established by the Learning Teaching Subject Network (LTSN), and in part funds the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL), and the final part of the Teaching and Learning Technology Programme (TLTP); also, for individuals, it funds the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS),

**Computers in Teaching Initiative** ends

**Learning and Teaching Strategies** funded by HEFCE

**The Institute of Learning and Teaching (ILT) HE**

…a professional body for teachers in HE is established, with the aim of raising the profile of the scholarship of learning and teaching in HE.

**2000**

**National Teaching Fellowship Scheme** introduced

**HE in FE – Development fund for teaching and learning –** for colleges directly funded by HEFCE

**2001**

**(7 June) Labour majority Government elected, led by Tony Blair**

***The Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations***

…in which, for the first time, (from September 2001) it became compulsory for new lecturers in FE to obtain a teaching qualification; and the newly launched FENTO standards would be embedded into newly validated awards, and must be met by teachers when undertaking an L and T award.

**Higher Education Staff Development Agency** formed

**Rewarding and Developing Staff in HE** – programme funded by HEFCE

**UK E-university** set up (ends 2004)

**Foundation Degrees** launched

**2002**

**Roberts Report – SET for Success** – postgraduate training

**Scottish Quality Framework – Enhancement-Led Institutional Review**

**2003**

***The Future of Higher Education* (White Paper)**

…with proposals for new rewards for excellent teaching, and centres of Excellence (which became CETLs), and for new professional standards, and a fledgling proposal for the establishment of what was to become the Higher Education Academy; also universities would be allowed to charge £3,000 per year fee; and the proposal for new two-year work-focused foundation degrees.

**UK Professional Standards** - HEFCE forms working party

**2004**

**The Higher Education Academy**

…the new professional body for HE teachers is established by merging the ILTHE and the LTSN, with the continuing aim of raising the profile of the scholarship of learning and teaching in higher education, and which will establish a standards framework for HE teachers – which became the UK PSF - and will co-ordinate the work of the existing 24 HE subject centres.

**Higher Education Act** – top up fees

**Scottish Higher Educational Development** **(SHED)** develops from the Universities Scotland Learning & Teaching Committee

***Equipping our Teachers for the Future* (White Paper)**

…which proposed a step-change in the need to professionalise the FE workforce, including replacing the Ofsted discredited FENTO standards with a new standards framework to be overseen by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) and their subsidiary Standards Verification UK (SVUK); also a proposal for new Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETTS), and a proposal for qualified teacher status - QTLS – to be the equivalent of the school based QTS – to be awarded by the newly formed Institute for Learning (IfL) – a professional body for FE teachers.

**Leadership Foundation** set up

**Teaching Quality Information** - web site established

***Final Report of the Working Group on 14-19 Reform* – The Tomlinson Report**

…which proposed 4 levels of a new flexible diploma system for 14-19 year olds, but which had luke warm support from government because of its desire to keep the A level gold standard.

**2005**

**(5 May) Labour majority Government elected, led by Tony Blair**

**(led by Gordon Brown from 27.06.07)**

**Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs)**

…HEFCE launches CETLs, enabling universities to create centres focused on any aspect of learning and teaching, with a view to enhancement, and which resulted in 74 centres being established, with funding until 2010.

**The National Student Survey**

…the first round of the NSS begins with 21 questions, and the first official analysis of results indicated high levels of satisfaction from students overall, but with some concerns expressed by students over assessment and feedback

***Realising the potential, a review of the future role of further education colleges* – The Foster Review**

…which recommended that FE colleges concentrate their vision on their economic mission – to educate and train the workforce;

**2006**

***Prosperity for all in the global economy - world class skills* - The Leitch Report**

…which consolidated the view that post-compulsory education in general should concentrate on the skills components of its qualifications, and which identified the urgent need to double the skills attainment of the workforce.

**The UK Professional Standards Framework**

… the HEA launches the first version of the UK PSF (in February) – the professional framework for teaching and learning in higher education - where universities were invited to accredit their L and T awards against the framework, but individuals could also apply for HEA fellowships by mapping their own CPD activities against the framework.

***Further Education: raising skills, improving life chances* (White Paper)**

…following Foster and Leitch FE colleges were encouraged to create a clear economic mission, with an emphasis on skills; and government would provide for full funding of students (19-25) to undertake level 3 qualifications, with an emphasis on new 14-19 diplomas to encourage participation and achievement, and a proposal for a new overarching Quality Improvement Agency (QIA), and a proposal for an annual requirement for continuous professional development for teaching staff.

**2007**

**New Regulatory Framework for FE teaching Qualifications**

…from September 2007 all FE teachers to be working towards a new FE-based qualified teacher status – either Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) or Associate Teacher Learning and Skills (ATLS) - within five years, with all learning and teaching qualifications in the FE sector mapped against the new LLUK standards framework - Preparing to Teach (PTLLS), Certificate in Teaching (CTLLS) and Diploma in Teaching (DTLLS) – undertaken according to role within the FE workforce – with a system of progression beyond each qualification; also a requirement for registration with the IfL, and a process of professional formation to precede the award of QTLS, and the need to record evidence of 30 hours of CPD annually.

***Beyond the honours degree classification* – The Burgess Group Report**

…which recommended the establishment of a higher education achievement record (HEAR) to replace the existing degree classification system.

**2008**

**The Research Excellence Framework (REF)**

… where the quality of HE research will be measured by a new system to replace the old Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), with a new emphasis on measuring the impact of research.

**2009**

**AimHigher** introduced

**2010**

**(6 May) Hung parliament in the General Election – subsequently Conservative/Lib Dem Coalition Government formed, led by David Cameron**

***Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education* – Browne Review**

…which established the principle that only high cost, strategic and vulnerable subjects should be protected by State support, and universities should be able to set their own market-driven fee, but students would not pay this upfront and repay it only when their annual income is £21,000 and above, and then only for 30 years, and that part-time students (FTE 0.3 or above) should be given the same status as full-time students – pro-rata; with no means testing for annual loans, and additional grants for low-income families; and it also included a proposal that academic staff teaching qualification returns should be made by subject.

**2011**

***Students at the Heart of the System* (White Paper)**

…which capped the fee at £9,000, and established a `Core and Margin’ system to regulate student numbers, where universities will have core funding numbers reduced, but may compete to get the numbers back at the margin in two ways: universities enabled to admit any student with AAB at A level and competition enabled for (initially) 20,000 student places for institutions charging (on average) below £7,500; and Further Education Colleges to be allowed to apply for foundation degree awarding powers (FDAP) and teaching degree awarding powers (TDAP) alongside other new private providers, creating a competitive market in higher education.

**Revision of the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF)**

…the UK PSF was revised and launched on 2 Nov 2011, with some minor modifications to the descriptors, and rewritten values, and with four levels of fellowship, aligned with the framework: associate, fellow, senior , and principal; and universities would be encouraged to accredit a full range of opportunities for their own staff to achieve any one of the fellowships along with a streamlined accreditation service offering a reaccredidation once every 3 years for each institution; and, although not part of the revision of the UK PSF, but it was also announced that the 24 Subject Centres would no longer be funded by the HEA.

**2012**

***Professionalism in Further Education* – The Lingfield reports**

…which proposed that the 2007 FE regulatory framework be revoked, and that the qualifications for FE staff be made simpler – possibly with two key qualifications – one at level 5 and one at level 7; also argued that the IfL has not achieved the support of the sector, and should return to being a voluntary professional body, with the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) taking on any regulatory function; and prompting movement in the direction of a new FE Guild.

**Key Information Sets (KIS)**

…establishment of a public facing website of data from each university to help students make informed decisions about choice of university course, which will include NSS data results and summaries of the nature of learning experiences and assessment regimes; information on course fees, accommodation costs and financial support offered; and information on graduate employment rates, destinations of leavers and salaries.