The costs and benefits of international students by parliamentary constituency

Findings for **Maidenhead** December 2018

Dear Rt Hon Theresa May MP,

In recent decades, the UK has been phenomenally successful in recruiting international students. They have brought social, educational and economic benefits to our country. Traditionally, only the USA recruits more international students, but the growth in the number of people coming to the UK to study at a higher level has slowed in recent years. Other countries – most notably Australia – are catching us up, threatening our position as the second most popular destination.

The Higher Education Policy Institute and Kaplan have commissioned London Economics to produce new figures for the benefits of international students in the UK. In the past, such data have not always been accepted by policymakers, especially in the Home Office, because they have ignored the costs of hosting so many international students. Our research is different as we include a calculation for the cost of international students to produce a net benefit total.

This original and sophisticated research suggests that the total benefit to the UK of hosting so many international students is £22.64 billion for a single cohort (2015/16) of students. After subtracting their costs of £2.30 billion, there is a net benefit of £20.34 billion to the UK economy per cohort over the duration of their studies – an average of £31.3 million per parliamentary constituency, or £310 for each member of the UK resident population per annum.

As a guide, in your constituency of **Maidenhead**, our model indicates that there are likely to be **160 international students**, who together contribute **£14.7 million** each year to the UK economy. This is equivalent to **£144 per constituent** per annum in Maidenhead. Overall, across the region, **we calculate the net benefits of international students hosted in the South East** to be **£2.4 billion**.

The full report is available at www.hepi.ac.uk.

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