28 November 2018

Amanda Spielman

Chief Inspector

Ofsted

26 – 32 Store Street

Manchester

M1 2WD

Dear Ms Spielman

**Inaccurate Press Statements by Ofsted**

As the national representative body for 83 HEIs engaged in Apprenticeship I am writing to express our concern over recent inaccurate statements made by Ofsted in the press. In your interview in FE Week of the 23 November you stated that Ofsted ‘*have started monitoring visits to all levy-funded apprenticeship providers’*. As I am sure you are aware Ofsted is not responsible for the quality assurance of Degree Apprenticeship and apprenticeship provision at level 6 and 7. Such apprenticeships are the fastest growing part of the Apprenticeship market, and include standards for social workers, police constables, registered nurses and chartered managers. Your statement, however, implies that Ofsted will conduct 'monitoring visits' to all providers even those only delivering Degree Apprenticeship and has caused confusion in the market, with HEIs requesting clarification from UVAC for themselves and the employers and PSRBs they work with.

Regrettably, this is not the first time Ofsted has made such inaccurate statements in the press. For a second time we have had to contact FE Week to request that Ofsted clarifies its role in Apprenticeship provision.

I am sure you would agree that given the complexities of quality assurance for Apprenticeship provision at levels 4 to 7 it is essential that accurate messages are conveyed. May I ask that in future Ofsted conveys an accurate message and ideally relates its role to the other key quality organisations engaged in Apprenticeship and in particular the Office for Students?

Yours sincerely

Adrian Anderson

Chief Executive