



# Adjustment

Success or failure?

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# Adjustment – Success or Failure?

- What did we set out to achieve?
- What happened?
  - Facts and figures
  - Local experience
- Conclusions...and a few questions



## What did we set out to achieve?

- Key task identified by government response to review of Higher Education admissions:
  - To provide students with the facility to make fresh applications if they achieve higher grades than predicted (*Recommendation 14*)

# Adjustment – facts & figures

- Total registered for adjustment:  
3600, of whom:
  - 397 adjusted
  - 2522 reverted to their original UF choice



# Local experience - Bristol

- Context untypical – tight number controls from the start of the cycle resulted in a planned undershoot against target.
- Total adjusting out: 0
- Total adjusting in: 17, of whom:
  - 50:50 split state/independent schools
  - 1 LPN applicant
  - 2 international applicants
  - 15 adjusted from other Russell Group or 94 group institutions; 2 from 'new' universities.

# Local experience – other HEIs

- Russell group experience appears similar
  - Losses ranging from 0-10
  - Gains ranging from 0-12 with:
    - Movement predominantly between Russell Group and 94 universities
    - Mixture of state and independent school applicants
    - A handful of adjustments by widening participation applicants
    - Some adjustment by international applicants
    - One or two probably triggered by personal reasons
  - Numbers registering for adjustment ranging from 3-79



# Local experience – other HEIs

- A random cross-section:
  - A 94 group university
    - Lost 6, gained 1
  - A 1992 university
    - Lost 8, gained 1
  - A 1992 university
    - Lost 11, gained 5
  - A 2006 university
    - Lost 4, gained 0



University of  
BRISTOL



# Adjustment - conclusions

- Anecdotal evidence that some applicants registered for adjustment in error
- Actual movement was small-scale
  - ...as it was intended to be
  - BUT – the squeeze on places may have been a factor
- Very little evidence of benefit to widening participation applicants
- Some movement of international applicants
- Many applicants appear to have adjusted between fairly similar institutions



## ...and a few questions

- Does this year's experience provide a reliable benchmark, given the unusual pressures on numbers?
- Did the information about adjustment reach the 'right' people?
- Will we see an increase in use, as teachers and advisers become more familiar with the process?





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