

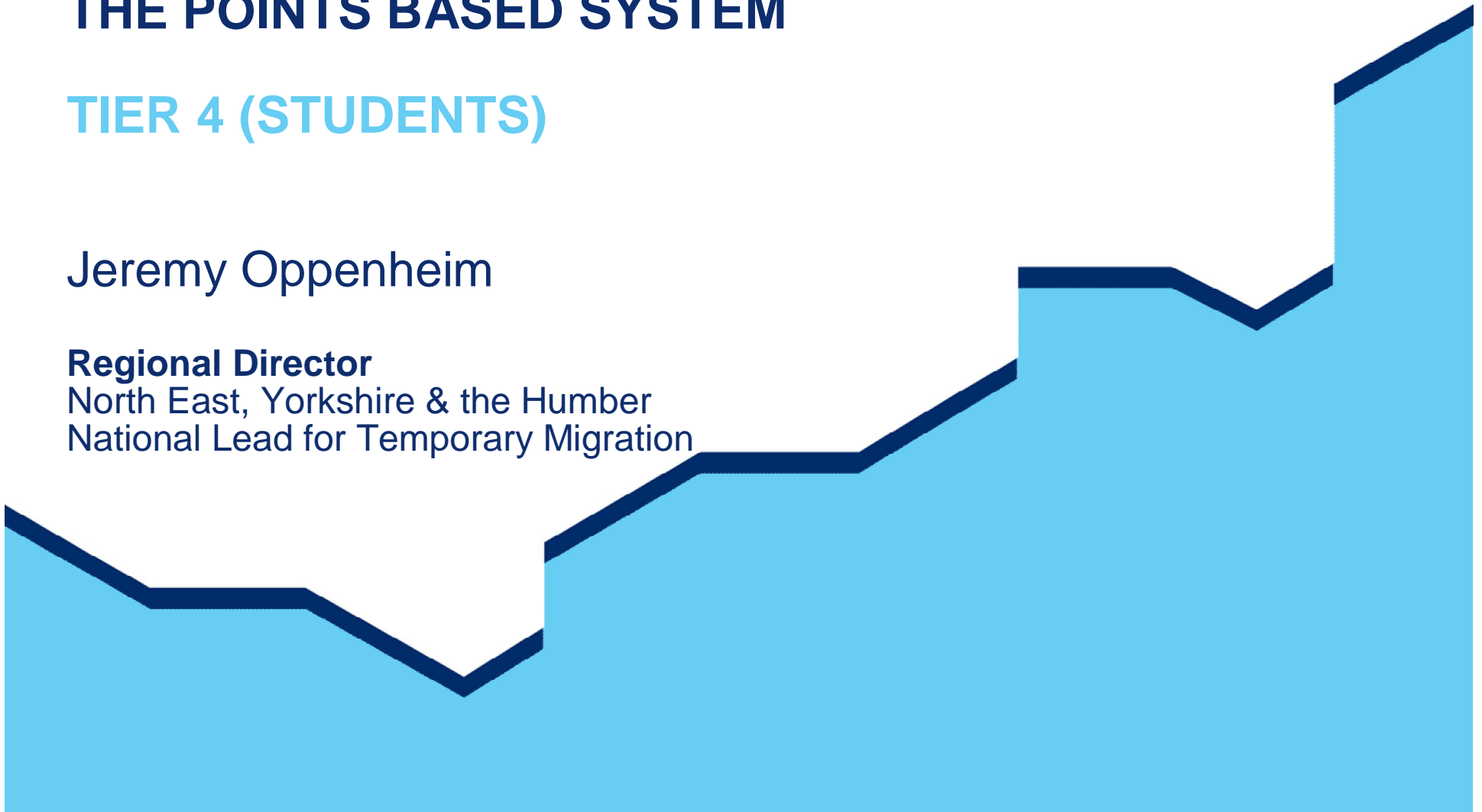


THE POINTS BASED SYSTEM

TIER 4 (STUDENTS)

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Why a Points Based System?

Points Based System takes us from...

In excess of 80 immigration routes, designed to meet particular needs as they have arisen.

Complex application routes, many of which required separate work permits & visas.

Subjective and inconsistent decisions based on a complex range of entry criteria.

To...

A five-tier system for people to work, train or study in the UK, designed to deliver on UK economic objectives.

A simplified, straightforward and transparent application process for all applicants.

Clear, objective and consistent decision making using a points-based system.

The biggest shake up of the immigration system in a generation.

Points Based System Overview

		Implementation dates
Tier 1	Highly skilled individuals to contribute to growth and productivity	29 February 2008
Tier 2	Skilled workers with a job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force	27 November 2008
Tier 3	Limited numbers of low skilled workers needed to fill temporary labour shortages	<i>Currently Suspended</i>
Tier 4	Students	Ph2: 31 March 2009 Ph3: 5 October 2009 Ph4: 22 February 2010
Tier 5	Youth mobility and temporary workers. People allowed to work in the UK for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives	27 November 2008

Previous Student Route

- ❖ We know from conducting raids, intelligence and other enforcement action that the previous student route was vulnerable to abuse from:
 - ❑ **Bogus colleges**
 - ❑ **Disreputable colleges offering bogus courses**
 - ❑ **Disreputable colleges offering courses which were really disguised employment**
 - ❑ **Bogus students using the route to work in the UK**
- ❖ Many bogus colleges were closed, but some were more difficult to detect
- ❖ Change was needed.



Tier 4 – Students

- ❖ Launched 31 March 2009
- ❖ For adults and children who wish to come to the UK to study at a school/college/university
- ❖ To study in the UK a student must have a Tier 4 sponsor
- ❖ All Tier 4 sponsors who want to provide courses for international students need to be **accredited** and **licensed** by the UK Border Agency.



How a Licence application is decided?

A two stage process:

1. Accreditation by an approved accreditation body
2. Stringent assessment by the UK Border Agency to show that the education provider has systems in place to vet and monitor students.

UK Border Agency needs to be satisfied that:

- ❖ **bona fide** organisation **operating lawfully** in the UK;
- ❖ no **threat to immigration control**;
- ❖ capable of complying with **sponsorship obligations**.



Additional Changes Under Tier 4

- ❖ Essential proven track record of studies
- ❖ Minimum level of study
- ❖ Stricter maintenance requirements
- ❖ Tied to Tier 4 sponsor
- ❖ Reporting conditions



Tier 4 - How is it progressing?

- ❖ Approximately **505,000** migrant applications have been made.
- ❖ Fewer erroneous decisions and reduced application times.
- ❖ Reduced number of registered institutions that were offering courses to students from an estimated 4,000 to **1,921**.
- ❖ Revoked **15** licences and suspended **140**.
- ❖ All establishments on the Tier 4 Register of Sponsors have been visited.

Phase 4 will be introduced on 22 February 2010:

- ❖ Roll out of CAS will be complete for all in-country and out-of-country applications.
- ❖ The CAS will be a mandatory document; visa letters will no longer be accepted.
- ❖ Education providers will be issued a CAS allocation.
- ❖ Mandatory reporting fully implemented.

What Next?

- ❖ We are not complacent
- ❖ Tier 4 Review
- ❖ Flexibility to allow for changes as and when required to safeguard immigration control
- ❖ Stakeholder engagement
- ❖ Genuine international students vs. safeguarding immigration control

