



National Audit Office

**The UK's independent public spending
watchdog**

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Reference FOI-1907

Date 4 March 2026

NAO OPEN UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Thank you for your request of 5 February 2026 for information held by the National Audit Office relating to The Open University (UK), for the period 1 January 2018 to the present. Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

To summarise, you requested to know whether The Open University has been referenced in any National Audit Office reports, reviews, scoping exercises, or internal assessments relating to value for money, governance, risk management, oversight of higher education bodies. And whether the NAO holds any aggregated or high-level information referencing The Open University in the context of public funding, accountability, or sector-wide analysis of higher education providers. We have searched our Financial Audit and Value for Money records to consider whether we hold any relevant information to your request. We can confirm that the Open University has not been explicitly referenced in any NAO reports or reviews, internally or published, beyond:

- being listed in a figure note for this report as their data removed [Regulating the financial sustainability of higher education providers in England](#)
- being listed in the breakdown of institutions used as part of our analysis. These pieces of analysis are drawn from published data sources: [Data and analysis | HESA](#) (finances and student numbers) and [Size and shape of provision data dashboard: Data dashboard - Office for Students](#)

I hope this information is helpful. Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely

FOI and Correspondence Officer
NAO FOI Team

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