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# University Autonomy in Europe




How autonomous are Europe's universities?

Select one of the countries on the right to find out.




## 4 Dimensions:

 **Organisational Autonomy**  
7 Indicators

 **Financial Autonomy**  
11 Indicators

 **Staffing Autonomy**  
8 Indicators

 **Academic Autonomy**  
12 Indicators

## Organisational

Organisational autonomy refers to a university's ability to decide freely on its internal organisation, such as the executive leadership, decision-making bodies, legal entities and internal academic structures.

The ability to independently **select, appoint and dismiss the executive head** and to decide on the **length of his/her term of office** is by no means guaranteed in all European higher education systems. Legal guidelines and restrictions still apply in many countries.

→ continue reading

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**Organisational autonomy refers to a university's capacity to determine its internal organisation and decision-making processes.**

- 
- ▶ Selection procedure for the executive head
  - ▶ Selection criteria for the executive head
  - ▶ Dismissal of the executive head
  - ▶ Term of office of the executive head
  - ▶ External members in university governing bodies
  - ▶ Capacity to decide on academic structures
  - ▶ Capacity to create legal entities

## Financial

Financial autonomy refers to a university's ability to decide freely on its internal financial affairs. The ability to manage its funds independently enables an institution to set and realise its strategic aims.

European universities receive an important proportion of their funds from the state. Whether this funding is provided as a **line-item budget** or a **block grant**, the **extent to which it may be freely allocated to different budget lines** and the **length of the funding cycle** are important aspects of financial autonomy.

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Financial autonomy refers to a university's ability to **manage its funds** and **allocate its budget** independently.

→ continue reading

- ▶ Length of public funding cycle
- ▶ Type of public funding
- ▶ Ability to borrow money
- ▶ Ability to keep surplus
- ▶ Ability to own buildings
- ▶ Tuition fees for national/EU students at Bachelor level
- ▶ Tuition fees for national/EU students at Master's level
- ▶ Tuition fees for national/EU students at doctoral level
- ▶ Tuition fees for non-EU students at Bachelor level
- ▶ Tuition fees for non-EU students at Master's level
- ▶ Tuition fees for non-EU students at doctoral level

## Staffing

Staffing autonomy refers to a university's ability to decide freely on issues related to human resources management, including recruitments, salaries, dismissals and promotions.

In order to compete in a global higher education environment, universities must be able to **hire the most suitable and qualified academic and administrative staff** without external prescriptions or interference.

→ continue reading

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Staffing autonomy refers to a university's ability to **recruit and manage its human resources** as it sees fit.

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- ▶ Recruitment procedures for senior academic staff
  - ▶ Recruitment procedures for senior administrative staff
  - ▶ Salaries for senior academic staff
  - ▶ Salaries for senior administrative staff
  - ▶ Dismissal of senior academic staff
  - ▶ Dismissal of senior administrative staff
  - ▶ Promotion procedures for senior academic staff
  - ▶ Promotion procedures for senior administrative staff

## Academic

Academic autonomy refers to a university's ability to decide on various academic issues, such as student admissions, academic content, quality assurance, the introduction of degree programmes and the language of instruction.

The ability to **decide on overall student numbers** and **set admission criteria** are fundamental aspects of institutional autonomy. While the number of study places has important implications for a university's profile and finances, the capacity to select students contributes significantly to ensuring quality and matching student interest with the programmes offered.

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Academic autonomy refers to a university's capacity to **manage its internal academic affairs** independently.

→ continue reading

- ▶ Overall student numbers
- ▶ Admissions procedures at Bachelor level
- ▶ Admissions procedures at Master's level
- ▶ Introduction of programmes at Bachelor level
- ▶ Introduction of programmes at Master's level
- ▶ Introduction of programmes at doctoral level
- ▶ Termination of degree programmes
- ▶ Language of instruction at Bachelor level
- ▶ Language of instruction at Master's level
- ▶ Selection of quality assurance mechanisms
- ▶ Selection of quality assurance providers
- ▶ Capacity to design content of degree programmes


# United Kingdom

There are different political environments and systems operating within the different countries within the United Kingdom. Many of the issues outlined in the present profile relate to developments in England and not across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Recent developments:

- Lifting of student number controls for universities in England, partially from 2012/13 and fully from 2015/16
- Major decrease of almost 70% in public grant funding for teaching in England (between 2011 and 2017), as tuition fee ceilings increased for Bachelor/undergraduate students
- Forthcoming changes to Scottish university governance with the Higher Education Governance Act 2016
- New quality assurance approach from 2016/17 including a new focus on teaching excellence with the Teaching Excellence Framework
- Forthcoming changes for universities in England outlined in the Higher Education and Research Bill

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 **1st**  
in Organisational

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 **3rd**  
in Financial

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 **3rd**  
in Staffing

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 **3rd**  
in Academic

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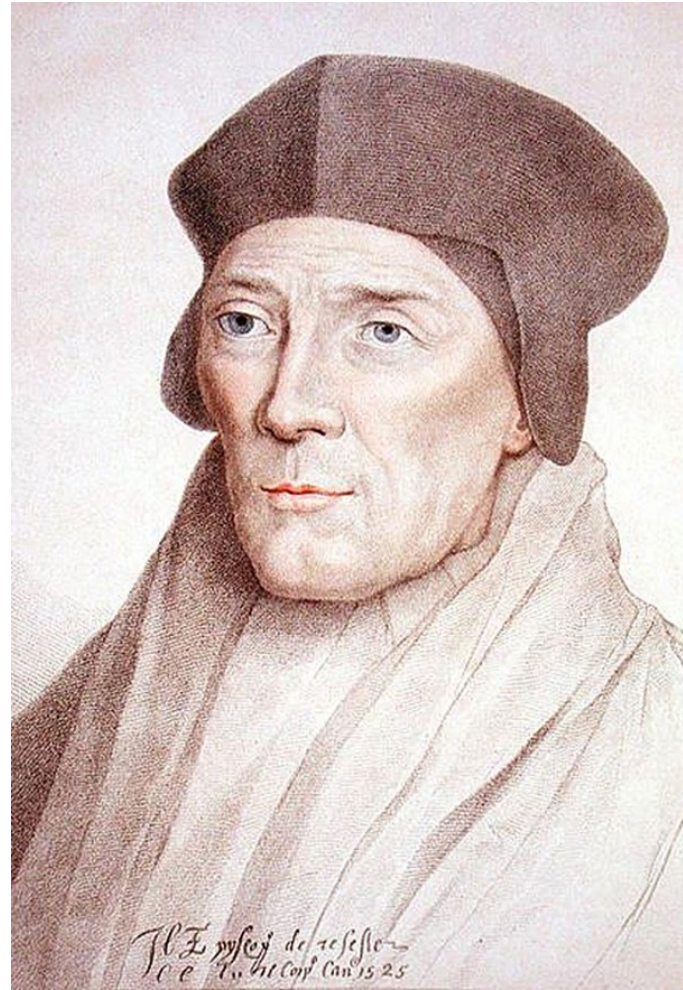


**St. John's College, Cambridge**





**Lady Margaret Beaufort**



**Bishop John Fisher**

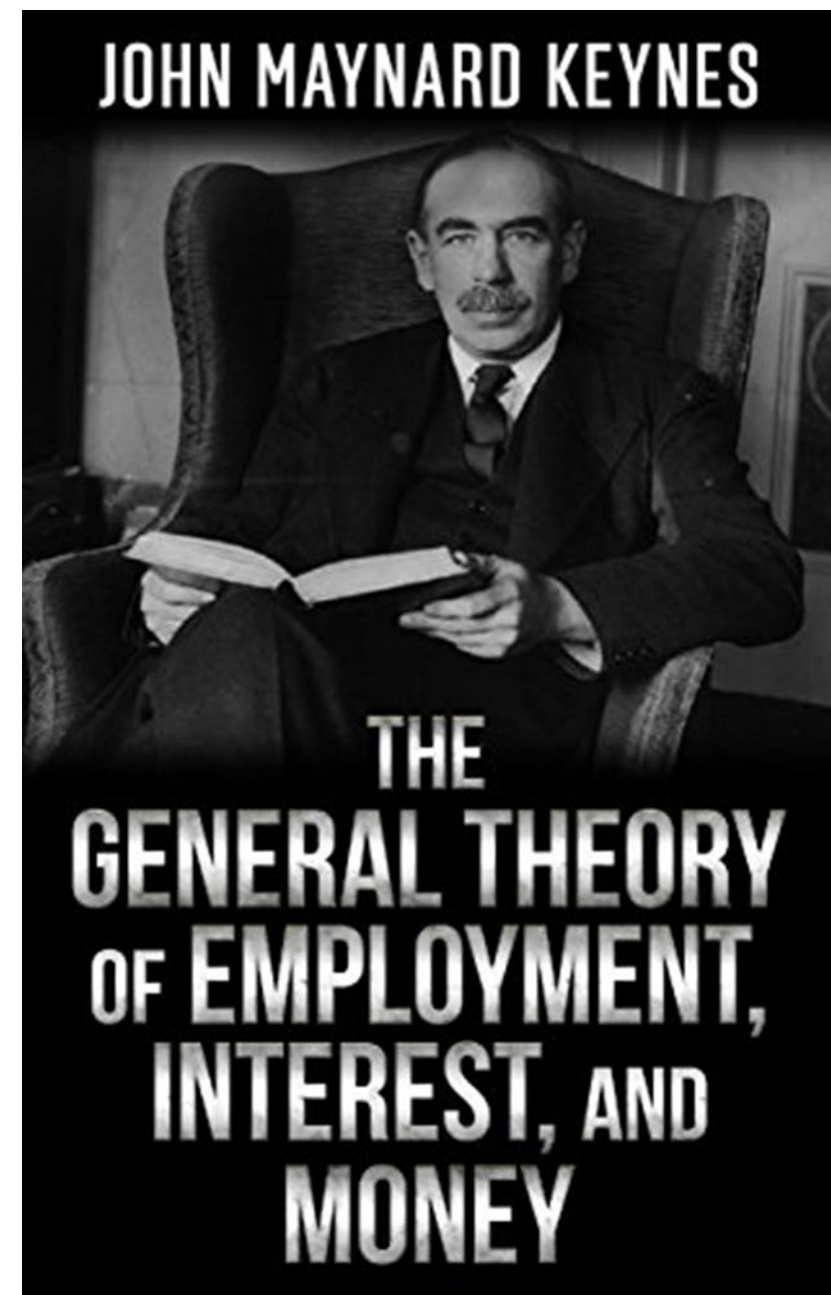
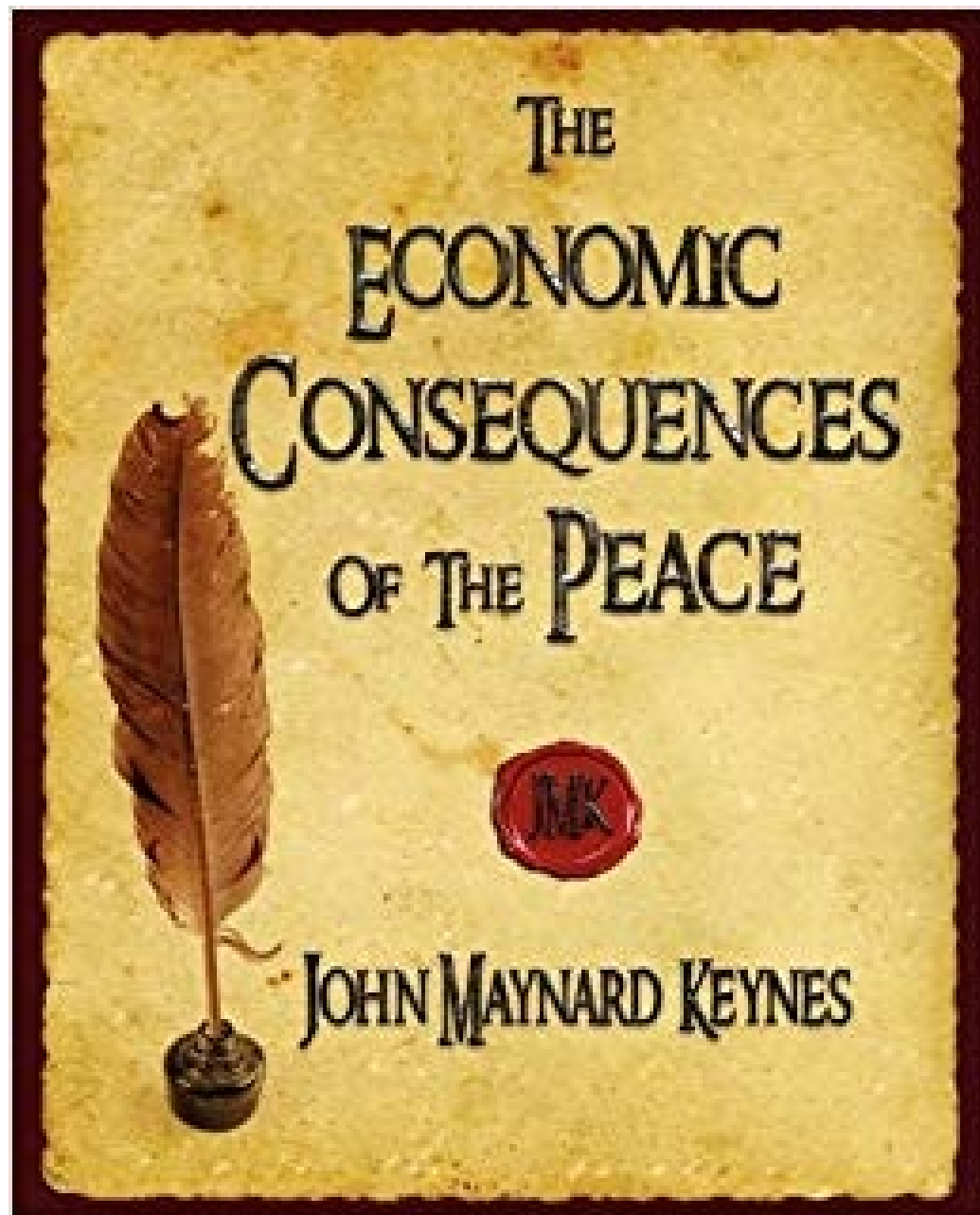


**Henry VIII**





**King's College, Cambridge**





WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK





# Education Reform Act 1988

## CHAPTER 40

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

#### PART II

#### HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

##### CHAPTER I

##### LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

120. Functions of local education authorities with respect to higher and further education.

##### CHAPTER II

##### REORGANISATION OF PROVISION AND FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION

##### *The higher education corporations*

121. Initial incorporation of higher education institutions maintained by local education authorities.  
122. Orders incorporating higher education institutions maintained by local education authorities.  
123. Provisions supplementary to sections 121 and 122.  
124. Powers of a higher education corporation.  
125. Articles of government.

**c. 40** *Education Reform Act 1988*

**Section**

126. Transfer of property, etc., to higher education corporations.  
127. Transfer of staff to higher education corporations.  
128. Dissolution of higher education corporations.

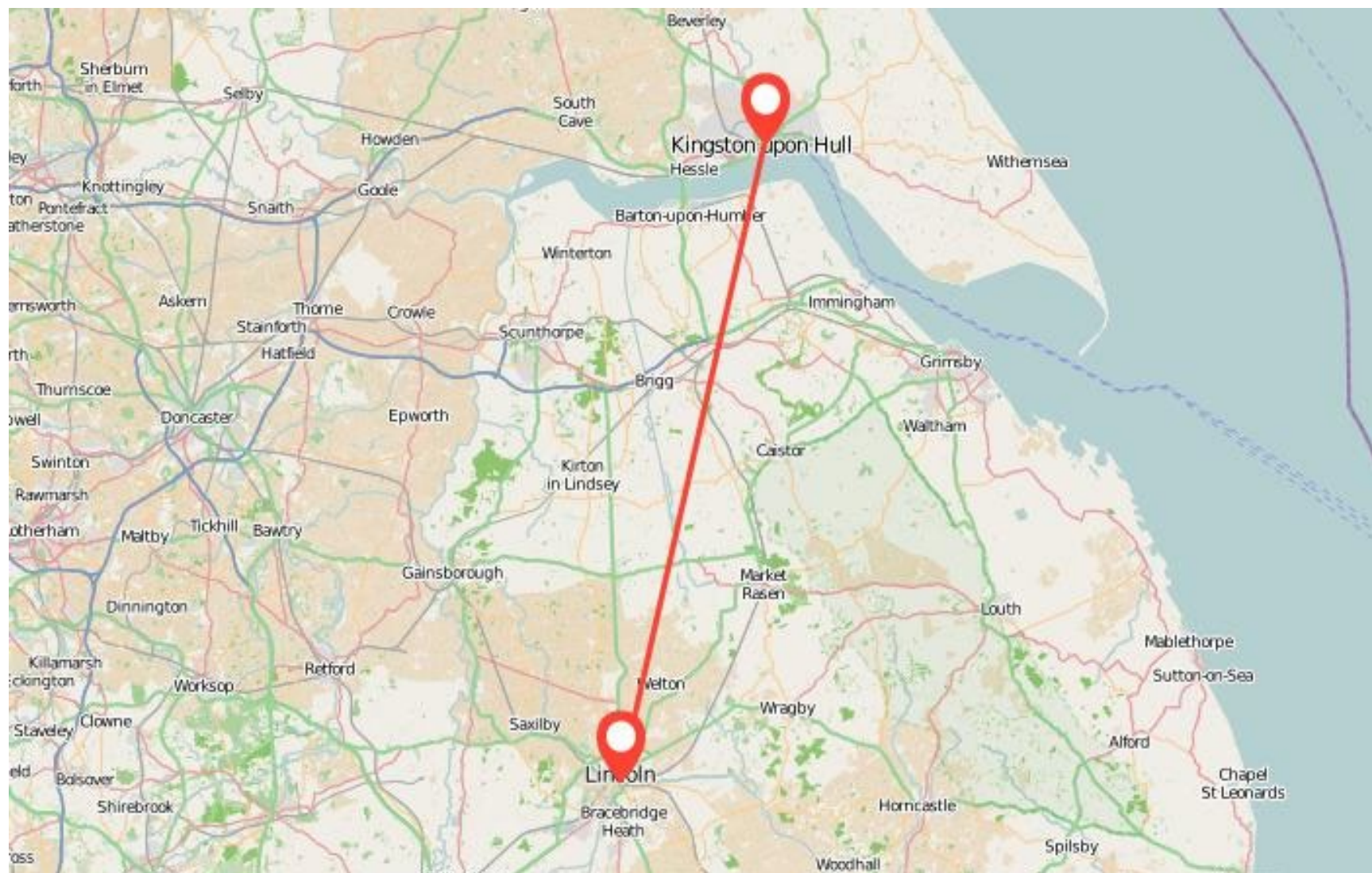
##### *Designation of certain institutions for funding by the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council, etc.*

129. Designation of institutions.  
130. Transfer of property, etc., to certain designated institutions.

##### *New arrangements for funding higher education*

131. Universities Funding Council.  
132. Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council.  
133. Payments by Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council in respect of persons employed in the provision of higher or further education.  
134. The Funding Councils: supplementary provisions.





**Hull 'Polytechnic' moves to Lincoln**



# Her Majesty The Queen opens the University of Lincoln

October 1996

 UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN





**The Hive**  
**First university and public library in the UK**





**University of Worcester Arena**

**First sports hall in the UK purpose designed to include the wheelchair athlete**

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Mr David Green  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Worcester  
Henwick Grove  
Worcester, WR2 6AJ

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

David,

I was wondering if you would be so kind as to supply me with the names of professors at your establishment who are involved in the teaching of European affairs, with particular reference to Brexit.

Furthermore, if I could be provided with a copy of the syllabus and links to the online lectures which relate to this area I would be much obliged.

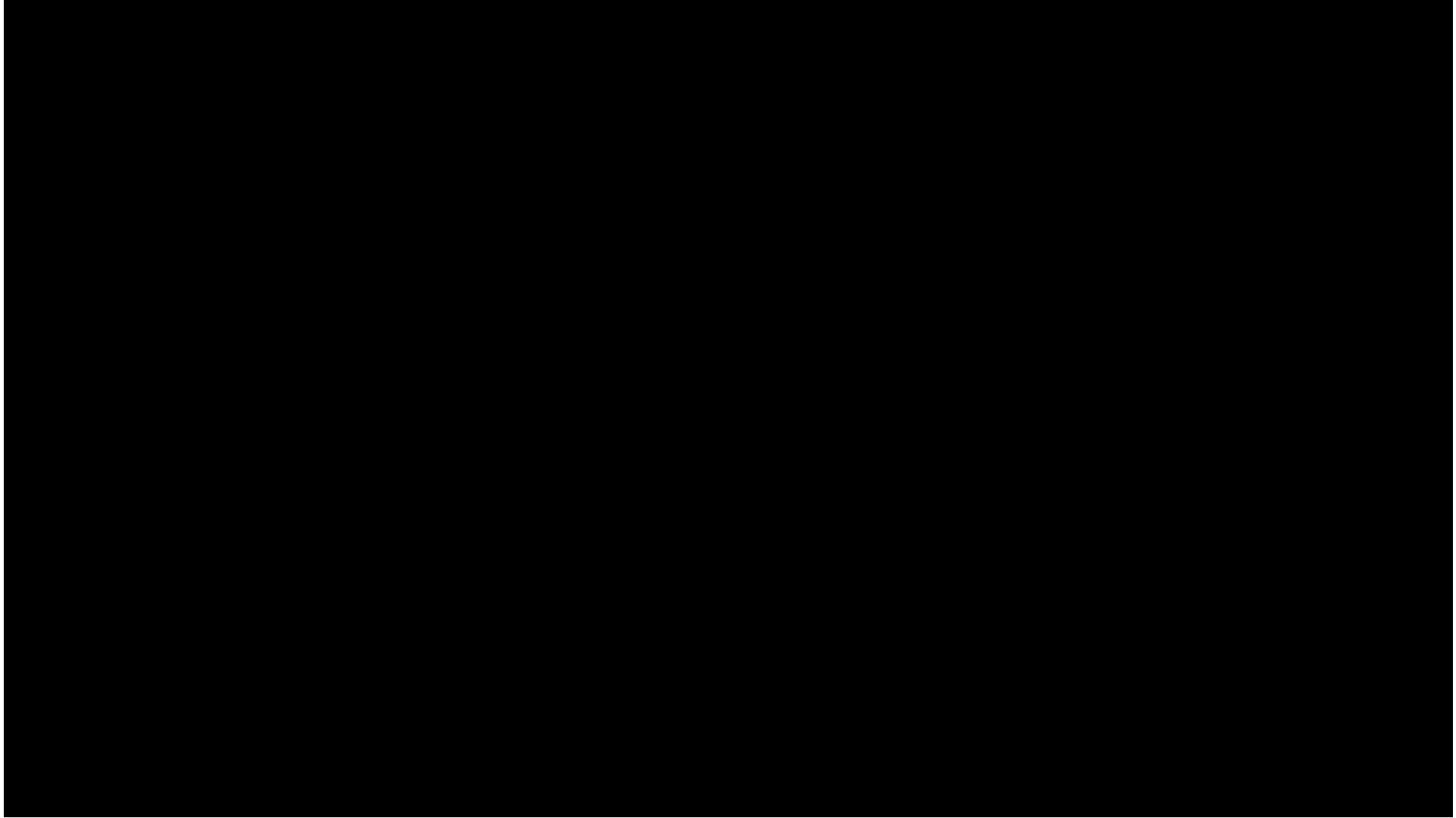
I sincerely hope you are able to provide me with such and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris".

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

## Interview





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