

Removal of the UCAS Route B process would in my opinion, lead to the following negative outcomes;

Students will have to make crucial decisions about their specialist area, which course and University to apply to, having been on their FE programme for less than a term. This will leave the majority of students inadequately prepared for specialist study at Degree level.

HE institutes will be forced to interview and offer places to applicants in January/February.

The consequences of unconditional offers being made in February would be a large number of students failing to complete their existing ND or Foundation Programme. Those applicants who are offered places at HE centres early in the calendar year will be tempted to seek employment to generate income in preparation for their HE study. This is already a big problem when students are currently offered unconditional places in April/May. It removes the incentive to attend and complete their current course.

A large number of students making the wrong decision about specialist subjects and the best place to study.

The first year of study at HE level will have to become a more general, diagnostic year spending valuable HE time 'sorting students out' in year one.

An increased number of withdrawals during the first year of HE Courses.

A serious detrimental effect on retention, completion and success statistics for National Diploma and Foundation programmes.

I do not know of any one who has received any consultation on the proposed changes.

Has any one consulted students who have been through the Route B system and recorded how it benefited their progression and ability to make informed choices?

I can understand the need to minimise costs and to streamline bureaucracy when ever possible, however this would be a clumsy, negative act which will ultimately drive down quality.