

Media backgrounder

What prompted the investigation at Lincoln University's Telford Division?

The TEC firstly initiated an independent review at Lincoln University's Telford Division as part of its regular monitoring activity. Previous TEC investigations into primary industry providers had raised concerns about the use of subcontractors and rapid roll expansion which informed the review.

The review looked at a range of programmes delivered in 2014 and 2015 and found some programmes had not complied with the TEC's funding agreement. The review was then escalated to an investigation of ten programmes of Lincoln University's Telford Division over the 2010 to 2015 period.

The following ten programmes were selected for the investigation:

- Telford Certificate in Agriculture
- Telford Certificate in Apiculture Knowledge
- Telford Certificate in Farming (Dairy)
- National Certificate in Agriculture (Level 3) Animal Feeding and pastures
- Diploma in Agriculture
- Diploma in farm Management
- Telford Certificate in Farming (Practices) - Funding recovered
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Aboriculture) (Level3) - Funding recovered
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Level 3) - Funding recovered
- Telford Foundation Certificate in Aboriculture - Funding recovered

Are there any other universities being investigated?

No.

Will the investigation impact of the future of Lincoln University?

Lincoln University has faced financial challenges in recent years and has initiated a range of projects to address their ongoing sustainability.

The investigation looked specifically at educational delivery at Lincoln University's Telford Division and concluded four of ten programmes had been under-delivered in accordance with the TEC's funding agreement. The TEC will continue to work closely with Lincoln

What is the difference between audits, reviews and investigations?

Audits are carried out to ensure compliance with conditions of funding. Audits place emphasis on procedures, processes, accuracy of records and how a TEO's statutory obligations and conditions of funding are managed within the organisation. The TEC conduct up to 70 audits each year.

Reviews are generally carried out as a result of the TEC receiving information about or becoming aware of matters relating to the activities of a TEO that require further examination. Reviews typically cover a two-year period.

Investigations examine the activities of a TEO in more depth than an audit or a review, and cover six years. Investigations are more likely to be initiated in relation to specific actions, activities or questions of conduct identified as a result of an audit or a review, or a complaint received.

The TEC commissions independent third parties to carry out reviews and investigations.