

CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL ONLY

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

COUNCIL

Review of the Permanent Private Halls associated with the University of Oxford

Ref. No. PPH/1

(a) Summary

The review of the Permanent Private Halls was established in July 2006, under the chairmanship of the Warden of Rhodes House. The review panel has received a self-evaluation document from each of the seven Halls, has undertaken a visit to each Hall (meeting with the Master, academic and administrative staff, and students), and has conducted interviews with a number of other members and officers of the University. The review panel's report is enclosed separately.

The recommendations contained within the report, summarised at its Annex A, are intended primarily to:

- (i) clarify the relationship between the University and the Permanent Private Halls, and explain the nature of the Halls;
- (ii) bring the governance of the Halls into alignment with other parts of the collegiate University, and reinforce the mechanisms by which the University supervises and regulates the activities of the Halls;
- (iii) ensure that matriculated students at the Halls undergo a more normative Oxford experience both in the quality of their education and the provision of other facilities;
- (iv) ensure that admissions procedures for both undergraduate and graduate students conform to best practice in the rest of the collegiate University;
- (v) ensure a shared understanding of, and a commitment to the values of a liberal education conducted in the spirit of free and critical enquiry and debate to which the University holds;
- (vi) strengthen the relationship between the Permanent Private Halls and the Faculty of Theology, particularly in terms of the provision of the BTh;
- (vii) clarify the relationship between academic staff working in or for the Halls and the faculties and departments of the University;
- (viii) strengthen the financial structure of the Halls through appropriate advice from the University's Finance Division and access to the resources of the Development Office.

(b) Action required of Council

Council is *asked* to consider the report and approve its recommendations.

(c) Further information

Further information may be obtained from [REDACTED]

