

The Work of the British Accreditation Council and its Colleges

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**BAC/CVU Working with Private Providers Seminar
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The BAC

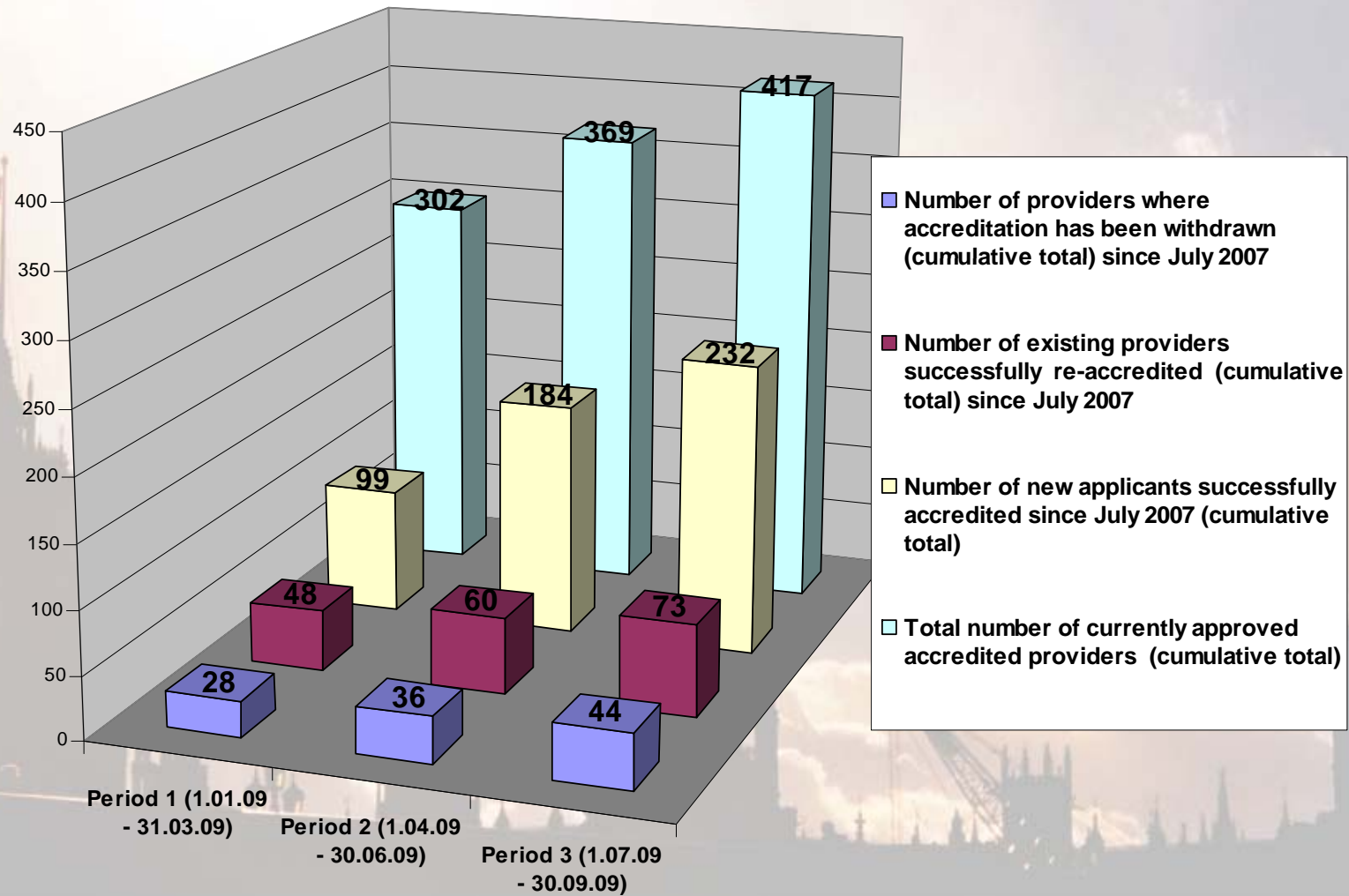
Established in 1984 to:

- **improve and enhance the standards of independent further and higher educational institutions by the establishment of a system of accreditation of such institutions and bodies administering accreditation schemes for such institutions**
- **define the eligibility of institutions and bodies to apply for such accreditation and to establish the criteria and standards to be observed by institutions and bodies applying for such accreditation**
- **arrange for inspection of institutions and bodies applying for such accreditation and to prescribe fees payable therefor**
- **act as the national accrediting authority for independent further and higher education**

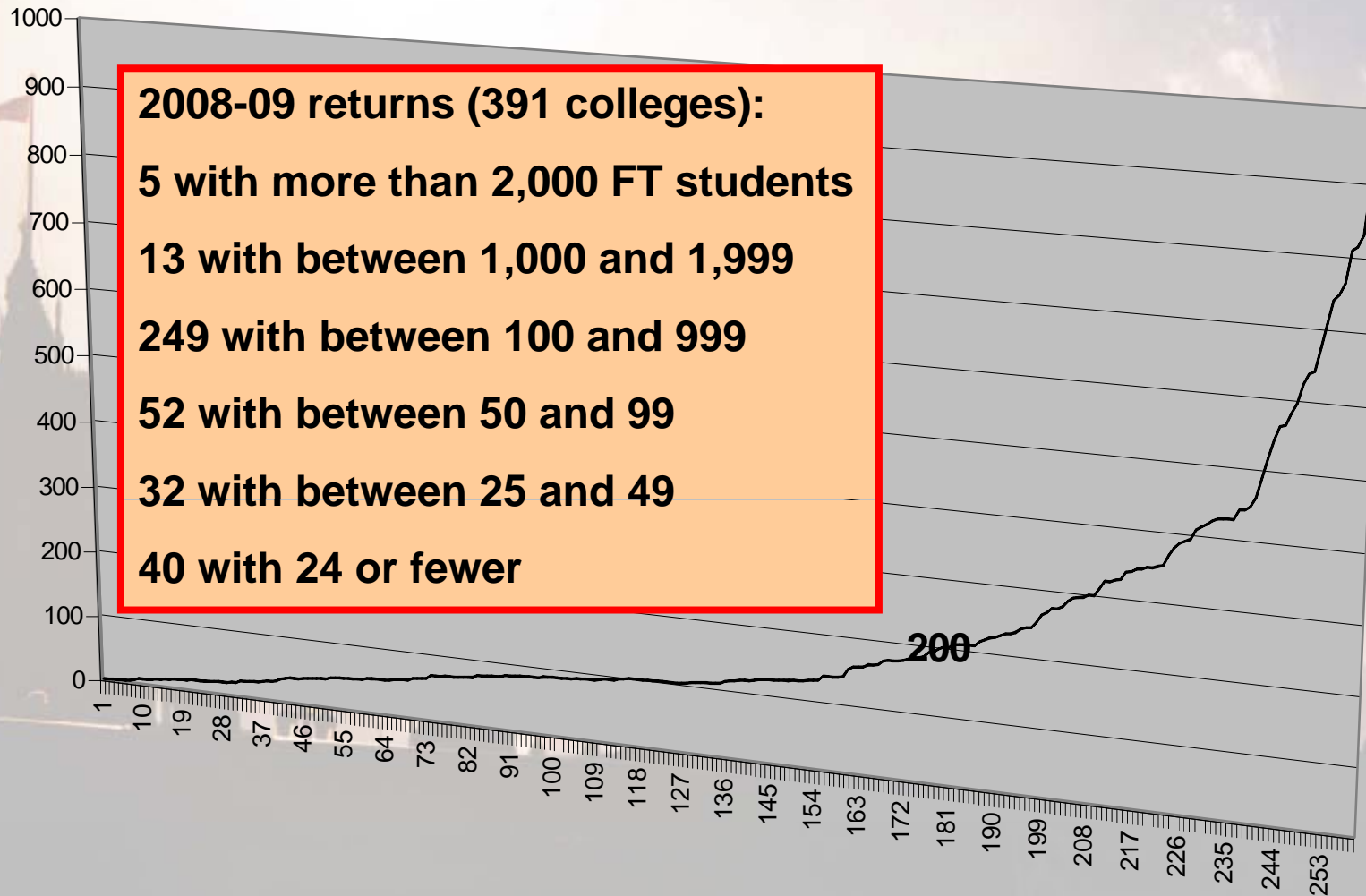
The BAC

- A company limited by guarantee and a Charity
- Governed by a Council of stakeholders
- Hon. President, The Lord Watson of Richmond
- Executive Committee (The Trustees of the Charity)
- Accreditation Committee
- Led by Chief Executive, Dr Gina Hobson
- Supported by Head of Inspection Services, Chief Inspector Sheila Needham, 85 freelance Inspectors and 17 staff in the Head Office in Holborn, organised into Accreditation, Communications and Finance Departments

BAC Accreditation in 2009



**Number of FT students - 251 colleges with less than 1,000 students
(2007-08 FTES return)**



Inspection Procedures

- Stage 1: Application form and documentation
- Stage 2: Compliance with statutory requirements and minimum standards
- Stage 3: Management of quality and teaching and learning
- Interim, Supplementary and Spot Check inspections

Stage 1

- Legal Status
- Audited accounts
- References
- Companies House
- Health and Safety
- Publicity: prospectus and website
- Staff and Student Handbooks
- CVs
- Management structure
- Timetables

Stage 2

- **Premises and Health and Safety**

Secure tenure; health and safety; properly equipped; suitable accommodation

- **Management and Staffing**

Effective management and qualified staff; attendance monitoring; employment; clear entry requirements; accurate publicity materials; copyright regulations

- **Student Welfare**

Support (including overseas students and special needs); accommodation; statutory requirements e.g. CRB checks

Stage 3

- **Management of Quality**
 - Clearly detailed course requirements; student progress; standards reviewed and monitored; student feedback and complaints system; internal awards and degree programmes
- **Teaching and Learning**
 - Planning and delivery; staff knowledge and skills; EFL support; study resources and learning materials; further study and employment advice

The different schemes

- **Non-collegiate accreditation**
 - for institutions which make occasional provision in hosted premises
- **Independent HEI accreditation**
 - for institutions working in partnership with UK Universities and offering only degree-level awards
- **Overseas accreditation**
 - for institutions outside the UK working in partnership with UK Universities or overseas colleges in common ownership with a UK-based BAC accredited institution (accredited institutions currently in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Switzerland and the UAE)

Accredited IHEIs and overseas institutions

- A common commitment to the QAA academic infrastructure, formal articulation agreements and experience in self-evaluation
- *Articulation* - rather than merely *progression* - agreements formally “owned” by the UK University partner, giving students equal and automatic rights to the University’s provision

Accreditation

- Awarded by the Accreditation Committee
- Period of up to four years
- Expect development and progress over this period i.e. long-term commitment from the College
- Monitoring of accredited colleges
 - Spot check and interim visits
 - Complaints procedures
 - Supplementary inspections
 - Detailed annual return
 - Statistical, WWW and qualitative review