

## **Study to assess the impact of the fossil fuel industry ties Grace on the University's ability to pursue its mission**

*17 July 2023*

In July 2022 members of the University proposed a Grace calling for an end to all sponsorship and collaboration with companies involved in the fossil fuel industry ([Reporter, 6666, 2021–22, p. 640](#)). The Council responded in October 2022 by commissioning a study (the Study) to analyse the likely impact of the proposals on the University's research and teaching activities, and to assess whether the implementation of the Grace would be compatible with the University's mission and its duties as a higher education charity ([Reporter, 2022–23; 6673, p. 84; 6680, p. 208; 6695, p. 590](#)). The Study was led by Nigel Topping, a member of the Climate Change Committee and former UN Climate Change High Level Champion for COP26. It is available at: <https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/reporter/documents/reports/FossilFuelStudy2023.pdf>.

The Council received the Study at its meeting on 17 July 2023 and held an initial discussion about its findings. When commissioning the Study, the Council's principal aim was to enable the University to have a thorough and deep debate about the advantages and disadvantages of the Grace, as well as of alternative formulations and approaches. To facilitate this debate and to bring it to a timely conclusion, the Council has established an informal working group, comprising four members of the Council, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise and Business Relations. The working group will address two points over the summer. First, it will examine the four recommendations of the Study to consider whether and, if so, how they might be implemented, including whether any might be capable of acceptance without wider consultation. Secondly, it will propose a format for consultation across the collegiate University during Michaelmas Term 2023 about the Grace, informed by the findings of the Study, with the aim of enabling the University to reach a conclusion on the issues by the end of the calendar year. The working group will report to the Council in October 2023.