



Eich cyf/Your ref WQ96076, WQ96077, WQ96078
Ein cyf/Our ref

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10 April 2025

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your written questions tabled on 25th March regarding the shortfall of planners and Cardiff University's Planning School restructuring proposals. I apologise for the delayed response.

Cardiff University is the only accredited Planning School in Wales and approximately 80% of practicing planners in Wales are Cardiff alumni. It is the only institution which provides specific planning education covering Welsh planning legislation and policy which has become increasingly important as the planning systems in Wales and England diverge. Planning education opportunities provided by the University of the West of England and Liverpool and Manchester Universities are also important, with the latter two institutions being particularly significant for the North Wales supply of newly qualified planners. I acknowledge the recent consultation on Cardiff University's restructuring plans. My officials have recently met with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the professional accrediting body for planning courses, to discuss our concerns and the potential impacts on the pipeline of planners in Wales.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) provided a response to the consultation, submitted on 18th March. The response highlighted concerns about the proposed staff reductions, which could affect the Planning School's ability to increase student numbers. Additionally, concerns were raised about the impact on the profile of planning within the new structure. Particularly the move of Urban Design from the Planning School to the Architecture School, which could create accreditation issues and dilute the focus on placemaking. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, as the outcome and impacts of the proposals are yet to be finalised.

Ensuring that Wales has enough planners with the right skills in the right areas is fundamental to the delivery of our policies. I have recently commissioned the Royal Town Planning Institute to undertake a piece of work on 'workforce planning'. It will provide a

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

detailed picture of the capacity, resource and skills situation across public sector planning services. The report will be published in the summer. This is an important piece of research that will enable us to develop a strategy to improve the capacity and resilience of our planning services and will ensure our resources are directed to where they will have the most impact. It will also provide an important evidence base on future demand for planning education which will be of benefit to Cardiff University and other providers of planning education.

Finally, to provide an immediate boost to the pipeline of new entrants entering the planning profession, I have recently approved funding of £143,000 for LPA Town Planning Bursaries via the Pathways to Planning Scheme which will be administered on our behalf by the WLGA. We are also committed to funding bursaries next year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rebecca" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the surname "Evans".

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio