



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cvf/Our ref SF/EH/1729/14

All Assembly Members

17 June 2014

Dear Assembly Member

Further to my update on Welsh Science in plenary on Tuesday 3rd June, I thought it may be useful to update to Members on the wider science issues raised during the plenary session.

Women in Science

I agree that this is an issue and the Chief Scientific Adviser has established the Women's Science Group. Prof Teresa Rees who is a renowned expert, will lead the group which will consider issues from youth to late career and will highlight potential solutions.

Collaboration

The Elsevier report showed that Scientists in Wales are outward looking and that 60 percent of their publications are collaborative in nature. It noted that that most of the highly cited papers emanate from those international collaborations. HEFCW recently reported in the Thirteenth Annual Survey of Interaction with Communities and Businesses, that universities in Wales are exceeding expectations when it comes to collaborative research with business, taking a 7.4 percent share of income in the UK and these collaborations in Wales are more than expected for our population.

To further support collaboration and to attract the best scientists from around the world, we will be making a substantial application to the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Cofund to attract up to 90 research fellows to Wales.

The Elsevier Report also showed that scientists in Wales are efficient, productive, in some cases world leading and that the reason why we do not bring in the expected level of grant funding is due to Wales having too few scientists. Welsh Government Programmes are therefore focusing on building on our strengths and increasing the number of scientists who can succeed in Wales.

National Science Academy (NSA)

The Chief Scientific Adviser is reviewing the NSA and will produce a strategy to inspire the youth of today to become the scientists of tomorrow and will report back on this in the autumn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. S. A.', is located below the text. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.