



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ96081

Julie Morgan MS
Member of the Senedd for Cardiff North
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17 April 2025

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your recent question (WQ96081) about Cardiff University's proposed holding tariff and the impact on the Welsh Language, which was tabled on 26 March 2025. As promised, here is my substantive response to your question.

This is a difficult time for the higher education sector in Wales and indeed across the UK, with higher education institutions facing financial pressures and needing to find ways to respond to these challenges. The Minister for Further and Higher Education has met with the Vice Chancellor of every Welsh university, representatives of Universities and Colleges Union, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Union of Students, to further understand the pressures facing the sector and explore how Welsh Government can provide support through this difficult period. These discussions are part of the ongoing dialogue the Minister for Further and Higher Education has had with the sector since being appointed in September.

As an autonomous institution, Cardiff University is responsible for its own academic affairs, including course provision, entry requirements and decisions around holding tariffs. It would not be appropriate for Welsh Ministers to intervene in such matters.

We have, however, asked Medr, the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research in Wales, to undertake an overview of subject demand, provision, and distribution in higher education in Wales, and to consider where interventions might be required to ensure the continuation of strategically important subject areas.

The Coleg Cymraeg has also written to all universities in Wales asking them to outline the effect of proposed cuts on Welsh-medium education. I will be discussing the Coleg's findings with the Minister for Further and Higher Education. This will feed into Medr's overview of the sector.

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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.

Universities in Wales are subject to the Welsh Language Standards (no.6) Regulations 2017 and must comply with the standards that have been imposed on them through compliance notices issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Standards impose duties on universities relating to the provision of services to the public, students, and staff. Some standards also require Universities to consider the need for Welsh language skills when recruiting staff and planning their workforce and ask them to consider the effect of policies on opportunities to use Welsh.

It is the Commissioner's responsibility help bodies interpret and implement standards effectively, and therefore to advise universities if standards apply to decisions regarding their holding tariff. It is also the Commissioner's responsibility to enforce standards and to investigate any complaints alleging non-compliance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mark Drakeford', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Mark Drakeford AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language