

Cymru X has always opposed the introduction of top-up fees in Wales, as well as tuition fees in general. We were part of the successful campaign which helped ensure that top-up fees have been ruled out in Wales until now. We support Plaid's policy on this issue. We also feel that the recent consultation was insufficient in gauging opinion from students and other interested parties. We will, therefore, produce a stock response for people that support our stance.

The One Wales Government's Education Minister is now proposing that fees make a return for Welsh-domiciled students, in exchange for financial support being directed towards more help for worse-off students. The main argument appears to be that something must be done to close the funding gap between universities in Wales and in England. At the same time there are a number of proposals in the consultation such as debt relief or even a debt write-off for graduates, tuition fee loans, PGCE Incentives and an increased Assembly Learning Grant.

However, we feel that this policy will result in students from poorer backgrounds not being able to afford university, resulting in university courses only being available for students from a privileged background or from prestigious institutions. Not only is this unfair, but it is against the terms of the One Wales Agreement.

Some of these proposals are attractive, but the amount of money it would cost to implement them makes it unclear on whether the funding gap between Wales and England would be reduced.

We would therefore like to state that we remain opposed to the introduction of top-up fees in Wales, and that the funding gap between Wales and England should be addressed in a way that does not put students in even more debt.