

At|To: All Welsh University Vice-Chancellors

Dyddiad | Date: 29 September 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **Arrangements to support students in light of COVID-19**

Dear Vice-Chancellors,

The Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee is undertaking ongoing scrutiny of the steps being taken to manage the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people, including students in further and higher education.

Considering recent well-documented challenges in Scotland and England, and given the current public health situation in Wales, I write to seek assurances about the steps being taken by your universities to support students studying in Wales.

I would be grateful you could set out:

- the COVID-19 measures you have taken in relation to your own accommodation, and how you have worked with Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSAs) and private landlords (NB please refer to arrangements for both term and vacation periods);
- how you intend to support – or have been supporting – all students (on and off-campus) who have needed to self-isolate, including how you would support large numbers self-isolating at the same time in a dignified manner (i.e. the provision of food and drink that meets dietary requirements, medicine, mental health support and other essentials);
- the provision you have in place for identifying and addressing student hardship;
- your approach to working with students on COVID-19 measures and actions, including self-isolation;
- how you are working and integrating with the public health and civil contingencies machinery within your local authorities and local resilience fora (to include confirmation of whether you have on-campus testing facilities for students);



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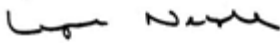
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- how you have engaged – and are engaging – with the local population, in particular where you have campuses in rural local authorities;
- any recommendations you believe the Committee could helpfully make to the Welsh Government to improve support for universities, staff and students.

Given the time critical nature of these arrangements, the Committee requests an individual response from each university by **noon on Wednesday 7 October 2020**. The Committee is keen to maintain a constructive and on-going dialogue with you in relation to these issues, and would welcome further updates when relevant information becomes available.

I am copying the Minister for Education, the Director of Universities Wales and the Chair of the Senedd's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee for their awareness.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

cc.

Kirsty Williams MS, Minister for Education

Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Universities Wales

Dr Dai Lloyd MS, Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee