

CYPE(6)-03-21 – Paper to note 5

Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

— Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddDCC@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddDCC
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddLJC
0300 200 6565

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair, Children, Young People, and Education Committee

21 September 2021

Dear Jayne

UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education

You will be aware that the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

At our meeting on **13 September 2021** we considered the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education.

The Convention will facilitate academic and professional mobility among member states through the recognition of qualifications obtained from other member states by providing a global framework for the recognition of higher education qualifications and qualifications giving access to higher education. It is the first legally binding United Nations treaty on higher education.

During our consideration of this Convention we identified a number of issues which the Children, Young People and Education Committee may wish to be aware of given the Committee's remit:

the Welsh Government has not yet published its assessment or provided information on its impact, nor has it confirmed whether intergovernmental arrangements for UK representation have been finalised for the Convention's Intergovernmental Conference (to be held every two years);

the agreement was laid during the passage of the UK Government's **Professional Qualifications Bill**, for which the Senedd's consent has been sought. In its Legislative Consent Memorandum, the Welsh Government recommends that the Senedd withhold its

consent to the Bill. One of the reasons provided is that the UK Government has failed to confirm to the Welsh Government which educational qualifications are within scope of the Bill, such as further education qualifications.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

