

Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and the Welsh Language

26 November 2021

Dear Minister,

Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

Thank you for attending the Finance Committee on 24 November 2021 to give evidence on the financial implications of the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill (the Bill).

During the session you agreed to provide further information and we would be grateful for your views on the following:

Costs attributed to the new Commission - the Regulatory Impact Assessment notes that the Commission will manage a budget of around £500 million per annum. Can you provide details of what other financial risks the Welsh Government associates with the Bill, by area of cost, along with a breakdown on how each area of cost was calculated.

Staff costs are the biggest expense for the new Commission, totalling just under £13 million per annum from 2023-24. During evidence, you stated that "only £3.3 million of those costs are new; the £9.7 million balance relates to existing HEFCW and Welsh Government staffing". You agreed to provide a breakdown of the £13 million for both the Welsh Government and the Commission staff.

On-going IT costs for the new Commission are in excess of £5 million per annum anticipated from 2023-34. You provided a breakdown of the estimated IT costs in four main categories: software development (£0.15 million); annual security and recertification (£0.03 million); user costs (£4.28 million); and consultancy costs (£0.69 million) (total £5.15 million). You indicated that some of the costs included in the breakdown would be incurred regardless of the reform, due to upgrading

existing systems. Can you provide a breakdown of what the 'business as usual' costs would be and the additional costs of the reform; and what risks may impact these costs?

Data collection - the Bill confers a series of new powers on the Commission, including introducing an improved, compliant and effective data collection, analysis and dissemination system with the aim of ensuring timely, accessible and relevant information about tertiary education in Wales is available for all who need it. You agreed to provide examples of what this data collection might entail.

We would be grateful for your response on these issues by **7 January 2022**.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

