

Vikki Howells AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch
Minister for Further and Higher Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1516
Ein cyf/Our ref VH/00320/25

Carolyn Thomas MS

Chair - Petitions committee

17 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July regarding Petition P-06-1516 Enable Cardiff University to keep the Nursing degree course.

The higher education sector in Wales and across the UK, is facing financial pressures and working on ways to respond to these challenges. As autonomous institutions, responsible for their own academic affairs, including course delivery and provision, it would not be appropriate for Welsh Ministers to intervene in such matters.

However, to further understand the pressures facing the sector and explore how the Welsh Government can provide support through this difficult period I have been engaged in dialogue with the sector since being appointed in September. I have met with the Vice Chancellor of every Welsh university, representatives of Universities and Colleges Union, including Cardiff University, and the National Union of Students and I continue to engage with the sector.

Specifically in relation to Cardiff University's plans for its Nursing Department, it announced in April that it was placing its plans to close the Nursing Department 'on hold' while it considered an alternative plan for nursing provision. Cardiff University and Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) have been working closely on the future of nursing provision at Cardiff, with planning under way to retain the Nursing Department and to continue to deliver its nursing provision. HEIW continue to explore all available options to ensure the continuity of provision and we expect to receive a full working plan from them over the coming weeks.

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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.

I hope this clarifies the position and look forward to hearing the final plans in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Howells', with a long, sweeping underline stroke.

Vikki Howells AS/MS

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Minister for Further and Higher Education