

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-06-1517
Ein cyf/Our ref VH/00321/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

4 August 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July regarding Petition P-06-1517 Help Cardiff University to keep their Modern Languages degree courses.

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 the Universities and Colleges Union, including Cardiff University, and the National Union of Students and I continue to engage with the sector.

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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.

In January, Cardiff University announced a consultation on restructuring proposals and the likely loss of 400 FTE jobs. This initially included closure of certain provision, including Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), and changes to merge or reduce the number of schools/departments. Following a review of its consultation responses, Cardiff University drafted a revised restructuring proposal, which was approved by its University Council on 17 June. This proposal included retention of MFL at a reduced and rationalised scale. The MFL department (with the exception of Portuguese, German and Italian) will remain open with a smaller cohort of students and will join a new school of Global Humanities, along with the departments of Welsh, English, Communication, Philosophy, Music, History, and Archaeology.

I want to emphasise my commitment to supporting our universities. Our universities are crucial to our ambitions for improving public services, growing the economy, and enabling the wellbeing of future generations. The Welsh Government will continue to work with the sector and other partners, alongside Medr, to negotiate this challenging time and safeguard the future of higher education in Wales. The [Written Statement](#) of 3 March sets out the Welsh Government commitment and the next steps we are taking in supporting a sustainable higher education sector in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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

Vikki Howells AS/MS

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