

James Owen

Chief Executive, Medr

10 December 2025

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27

Dear James,

Since we took oral evidence from you during our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget, it has come to the attention of some Members that some FE institutions may have more students than places. We are understandably concerned about this.

Both the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Minister for Further and Higher Education highlighted the potential impact of the increasing popularity of colleges in the current financial climate. The Minister for Further and Higher Education noted that she had met with you, and that you had highlighted that this could become an "additional pressure for the sector." Both the Cabinet Secretary and Minister emphasised that they did not want to see learners on waiting lists for college places.¹

In this context, we would like some further information about waiting lists for student places in colleges. We would appreciate if you could respond to the following questions:

1. What is the extent of colleges using waiting lists for over-subscribed courses?
2. Do you know how many students across Wales are on a waiting list for a college place. If so, do you have information on the geographical breakdown of these waiting lists and what courses are oversubscribed?

¹ CYPE Committee, 27 November, Record of Proceedings, paragraphs 214 and 216

3. What actions are Medr taking to reduce numbers waiting for a place, and ultimately ensure that no student is on waiting list for a college place?

I am copying in the Cabinet Secretary for Education, the Minister for Further and Higher Education and Colegau Cymru.

We would appreciate a response by 7 January.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

CC: Cabinet Secretary for Education

Minister for Further and Higher Education

ColegauCymru

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

