

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 September 2014

By email

Dear William

Re: Petition – P-04-458

Thank you for your letter dated 31 July 2014 to my predecessor, John Graystone, which has been passed to me.

Colleges are an integral part of the Welsh public service and operate as charities promoting education and skills to the benefit of their communities. The passage of the Further and Higher Education (Governance and Information) Act 2014 was designed, in part, to enable the colleges to restore their place as charities in the Third Sector that they held between 1993 and 2010. It was at this point that colleges were reclassified as central government bodies by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This reclassification was a result of changes to European accounting rules rather than a change in Welsh Government policy. We await a decision from the ONS on what the future classification of colleges in Wales will be.

As has been widely publicised, colleges in Wales are implementing a national contract for lecturers and other categories of staff from the beginning of this academic year. All the relevant general FE colleges are implementing the national contract.

Colleges in Wales have a long track record as responsible custodians of public investment. In the event of a future merger/dissolution of a college any transfer of assets and liabilities would be subject to clear legal and charitable requirements that would protect the public interest. Earlier this month *The Dissolution of Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals and Prescribed Bodies) (Wales) Regulations 2014* came into force. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure that, in the event of

Uned 7 Cae Gwyrdd, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Caerdydd CF15 7AB

www.colegaucymru.ac.uk helo@colegaucymru.ac.uk Ff: 029 2052 2500
Cwmni Cofrestredig Rhif 2832103 Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 1060182

Unit 7 Cae Gwyrdd, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Cardiff CF15 7AB
www.collegeswales.ac.uk hello@collegeswales.ac.uk T: 029 2052 2500
Registered Company No 2832103 Registered Charity Number: 1060182

the dissolution of a college, its property and assets may only be transferred to another publicly funded organisation involved in education, and will be retained for educational purposes.

I hope this response will assist you in your consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Greg Walker

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive