

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref SF/HL/1920/15

Ann Jones AM
Chair, Children, Young People and
Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6 August 2015

Dear Ann,

Copy of Grant-in-Aid allocation letter to Qualifications Wales

During the Children, Young People and Education Committee's scrutiny of the Qualifications Wales Bill, I agreed to publish a copy of the Framework document and the Grant-in-Aid letter issued to Qualifications Wales.

I am pleased to attach a copy of the letter. The documents will also shortly be available electronically on the Welsh Government website.

In putting together the Qualifications Wales budget for 2015/16 my officials reviewed the set up and running costs against the forecasts provided in the Bill's Regulatory Impact Assessment that formed part of the Explanatory Memorandum. I am pleased to confirm that at the time of writing the projections for the 5 year costs are just under those published.

Finally, I have now appointed the majority of the Qualifications Wales Board members and am pleased to enclose some background information.

I trust that this information is helpful to Committee Members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Minister for Education and Skills

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.Huw.Lewis@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Attachment 1:

Qualifications Wales Board – pen portraits

Ann Evans Chair, Qualifications Wales

Ann Evans has been an independent education consultant since 2012 following four years as Chief Executive of Careers Wales, Mid Glamorgan and Powys. Her earlier positions include Assistant Chief Executive of ACCAC (Qualifications Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales), a school Science teacher and a lecturer and manager in Further Education.

Philip Blaker CEO, Qualifications Wales

Philip was appointed as CEO Designate for Qualifications was in September 2014. Prior to that, he was Interim Director of Operations at, where he was accountable for the day-to-day delivery of UCAS' admissions services, including the processing of applications, collection of course data and verification services. He joined UCAS in November 2011, having previously worked with the organisation as a management consultant. Philip's career has been focused on the delivery of large scale complex operations, and, before becoming a consultant with PwC, he had a background in the delivery of national assessments and examinations. Philip was Director of Test Operations with the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and part of the senior management team with examinations board AQA. Philip has postgraduate qualifications in business management and is a qualified project and programme manager.

Claire Morgan Board Member

Claire Morgan is currently the Associate Dean of Quality and Standards at Cardiff University. Prior to this role Claire was a senior lecturer in Economics, with 20 years' experience in higher education, with specific interest in assessment policy and practice. Claire has also been appointed to work for the Quality Assurance Agency as an academic Higher Education Reviewer. Committed to the enhancement of the student experience Claire is a member of numerous Boards and working groups within Cardiff University. In August Claire starts a new role within Cardiff Metropolitan University as Dean for Learning and Teaching.

Paul Croke Board member

Paul Croke was the Principal of Yale College until 2011 following a successful career in further education for over 40 years. Paul is currently an education consultant specialising in post sixteen education and training, he is also Chair of Governors at Bridgend College. Paul was instrumental in writing the first ever Sports Strategy for Colleges in Wales and is currently the Chair of the Welsh Colleges Sports Co-ordinators' group. Paul is writing a PhD in conjunction with Colegau Cymru on the developments in the post sixteen sectors in Wales 1993-2011.

Angela Maguire-Lewis Board member

Angela Maguire-Lewis is a highly experienced senior manager and has worked in Work Based Learning for 20 years, currently working as a freelance educational consultant supporting companies on both operational and quality strategies. In her previous role as Operations Manager with Babcock International Group she managed work based learning contracts in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Angela has in-depth experience and knowledge of the design, delivery and evaluation of apprenticeship, employability and

alternative curriculum programmes. She has represented Work Based Learning providers in her former role as Board Member of NTFW and as a member of external stakeholder meetings for Post 16 education and skills in Wales. Throughout her career she has shown continual commitment to achieving high quality standards which has been enhanced through her work with Estyn as Additional Inspector.

Isabel Nisbet **Board member**

Isabel Nisbet has had a career in public service and regulation, particularly of education and educational assessment. She is a Scot and attended school and university in Glasgow, followed by postgraduate studies at Oxford. She held a range of civil service posts in Scotland and England, and in the 1990s moved to senior executive roles at in the regulation of doctors and of medical education. In 2005 she was appointed Director of Regulation at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and she subsequently became the first CEO of Ofqual, the regulator of examination and qualifications in England. From 2011-2014 she worked in South East Asia on behalf of Cambridge International Examinations. Isabel is now an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, and serves on several Boards and Committees.

Caroline Burt **Board member**

Dr Caroline Burt is the admission tutor and director of studies in history at Cambridge University. Caroline's career history includes tax analyst at Arthur Andersen Accountants and academic studies tutor at Cambridge University. Caroline is Chair of several groups and boards within Cambridge University and Trustee at Oakhome School and Governor at the Coopers Company and Coborn School in Essex. Caroline has won many awards and prizes throughout her career and will shortly be taking a sabbatical to write a book on medieval history.

Dr Dylan Jones **Board member (short-term)**

Dr Jones is the Headteacher of the Welsh-medium school Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg. His vision for and strategic direction of the school since its inception in 2000 were praised in the 2008 report on the school by Estyn, in which the school was awarded Grade 1 in all but one of the inspection categories. In 2010, Dr Jones was nominated for the NCSL Headteacher of the Year Award, and in 2012, he was Chair of the National Eisteddfod's Executive Committee. Dr Jones was also part of the Qualifications Wales Advisory Board that has supported the Qualifications Wales – Transition Team over the last two years, until it was disbanded in March 2015. He has been directly appointed on a short-term basis to the Board of Qualifications Wales while a further round of advertisement is carried out.

Iestyn Davies **Board member (short-term)**

Iestyn Davies is the lead staff member for the FSB, which represents the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises in Wales. The FSB's current membership in Wales stands in the region of 10,000, and it has an active role in lobbying and influencing government as well as supporting its members with a range of business benefits. Iestyn leads a team of seven full-time employees that supports FSB members in Wales via their regional and branch associations. He also provides direct support to the Chair of the FSB's Welsh Policy Unit. Iestyn was part of the Qualifications Wales Advisory Board that has supported the Qualifications Wales – Transition Team over the last two years, until it was disbanded in March 2015. He has been directly appointed on a short-term basis while a further round of advertisement is carried out.



Ein cyf/Our ref SF/HL/1920/15

Ann Evans
Chair of Qualifications Wales
Q2, Pencarn Lane,
Newport
NP10 8UH

6 August 2015

Dear Ann,

Qualifications Wales Grant Allocation Letter for 2015 – 2016

I am very pleased to be writing to you to confirm the first Grant Allocation for Qualifications Wales. This is a key moment for education in Wales, marking the successful implementation, and indeed completion, of the recommendations set out by Huw Evans in his 2012 Review of Qualifications.

You are embarking on an important journey, to shape the qualifications system in Wales to ensure that qualifications are understood and valued and meet the needs of our young people and the Welsh economy. As a regulator, I expect you to be tough but fair and develop an effective regulatory relationship with Awarding Bodies. I also look forward to seeing you demonstrate your independence by both challenging and advising Ministers. Equally, I look forward to your direct engagement with partners across Wales to contribute to the on-going development of education in Wales.

I have sought to provide you with the best possible start. The early appointment of the CEO has allowed the organisation to be established in tandem with the legislative process. I will be transferring assets, staff and contracts to you when you commence your regulatory functions in September. I have appointed a strong Board and I am confident they will support you as you develop your strategic and operational plans.

The Qualifications Wales Act clearly lays out your principal aims of ensuring that qualifications, and the Welsh qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales, and of promoting public confidence. It also covers the matters to which you must pay regard.

Qualifications Wales is being established at an exciting time for education in Wales. There is a new momentum in Welsh education, driven by our reforms, and focused on raising standards across the board. In June I announced that the Welsh Government would accept in full the recommendations of Professor Graham Donaldson's report 'Successful Futures' and we will now begin the task of creating a new curriculum for Wales.

Qualifications Wales will be an important partner in the development of our new curriculum and I look to you to consider how best to ensure that our curriculum aims and purposes are appropriately reflected in the qualifications that young people take. There are two key areas where I would welcome more immediate advice on the alignment of qualifications and the new curriculum. The first relates to the Welsh Language. As I said in my statement to the Assembly, a curriculum that is by Wales for Wales must reflect our confidence and pride in Wales as a bilingual nation, with the strength and assurance to enable all learners to acquire skills in both Welsh and English. There is much to be done to improve pupils' Welsh-language skills in our English-medium schools at all ages. In support of the wider work being undertaken to strengthen acquisition of the Welsh language I would like Qualifications Wales to consider the current range of Welsh second language qualifications and advise on how these should change in light of the recommendations made in 'Successful Futures'. I would also welcome your advice on how, over the longer term, we can raise the expectations embodied in those qualifications.

The second area concerns Religious Education qualifications. In his report Professor Graham Donaldson identifies four purposes of education, one of which is that children should be ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world. I would welcome your advice on how qualifications relating to religion might also incorporate philosophy and ethics providing an opportunity for young people to ponder ideas around ethics and citizenship and what it means to be a citizen of a free country.

Given the current GCSE and A level reform programme I would welcome early views on both these issues.

The reform of our qualifications sees the first phase of new GCSEs and A levels and the Welsh Baccalaureate being taught from September 2015. Ensuring our schools and colleges are well prepared and confident in their understanding of the requirements of the new qualifications in order to teach them effectively is a top priority for Welsh Government and I welcome your support to ensure that no momentum is lost.

As the regulator I would also like to see Qualifications Wales considering the 2014 lessons learned report produced by Huw Evans, and advising me of any recommendations that it will be taking forward.

I am currently considering the results of the consultation on Apprenticeships, and will soon want to discuss with you what role, if any, Qualifications Wales should have in the future. I would also like to remind you that Qualifications Wales is one of the three key partners in the on-going promotion of the Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales (CFQW) and encourage you to consider how you can best support this.

During the development of the legislation I put forward an amendment to enable Qualifications Wales to both 'approve' qualifications, but also to 'designate' qualifications as eligible for funding. I believe that this provides an important flexibility and I have agreed to only transfer a small number of qualifications as 'approved'. In doing so it is important that I state my clear expectation that the volume of approved qualifications will increase significantly over time.

The legislation that I have introduced enables you to give equal attention to both general and vocational qualifications helping to build parity of esteem – an aim that has wide-spread support.

Finally, I would like to re-confirm my commitment to considering an ‘awarding’ role for Qualifications Wales in the longer term, and I look forward to receiving your advice on this in due course.

Grant in Aid Funding

I am pleased to confirm that the Welsh Government will provide Qualifications Wales with Grant in Aid funding as set out in the budget split below:

Grant in Aid Budget Allocation

	2015-16 £m
Revenue* GIA	5.626
Capital Expenditure	0
Non Cash (Depreciation)**	0
Total Grant in Aid	5.626

Payment of grant-in-aid is conditional on compliance with the financial arrangements agreed in Qualifications Wales Framework Document.

Yours sincerely



Huw Lewis AC / AM

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