

# Finance Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

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Meeting date: **Wednesday, 27 November 2013**

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Meeting time: **09:30 – 12:10**

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This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

[http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en\\_300000\\_27\\_11\\_2013&t=0&l=en](http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_300000_27_11_2013&t=0&l=en)

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Concise Minutes:

### Assembly Members:

**Jocelyn Davies (Chair)**  
**Peter Black**  
**Christine Chapman**  
**Paul Davies**  
**Mike Hedges**  
**Ann Jones**  
**Julie Morgan**  
**Simon Thomas**

### Witnesses:

**Ben Arnold, Policy Adviser, Higher Education Wales**  
**Dr David Blaney, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales**  
**Professor John Hughes, Bangor University**  
**Celia Hunt, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales**  
**Stephanie Lloyd, NUS Wales**  
**Bethan Owen, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales**  
**Kieron Rees, Representation and Policy Officer, National Union of Students Wales**  
**Amanda Wilkinson, Higher Education Wales**

### Committee Staff:

**Bethan Davies (Clerk)**

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Claire Griffiths (Deputy Clerk)

Helen Jones (Researcher)

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## TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

### 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.

### 2 Inquiry into Higher Education Funding: Evidence from Higher Education Wales and Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Professor John Hughes, Vice-Chancellor, Bangor University, Amanda Wilkinson, Director of Higher Education Wales, Ben Arnold, Policy Adviser, Higher Education Wales, Dr David Blaney, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), Bethan Owen, Director of Institutional Engagement, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and Celia Hunt, Director of Skills, Education and Funding, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) on higher education funding.

#### Action Points:

2.1 Higher Education Wales agreed to send additional information on:

- Data on regional comparisons
- The number of AAB or better students studying at Bangor University
- Number of decline of students studying through the medium of Welsh
- Data on VFM of students studying in Wales

2.2 HEFCW agreed to send additional information on:

- The trends of Welsh students studying in England (when available)
- Number of students studying through the medium of Welsh

### 3 Inquiry into Higher Education Funding: Evidence from the National Union of Students

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Stephanie Lloyd, NUS Wales President and Keiron Rees, Policy and Public Affairs Officer, NUS Wales on higher education funding.

#### Action Points:

2.1 NUS Wales agreed to send additional information on analysis of forthcoming research on student support when available in the new year

## **4 Papers to note**

4.1 The papers were noted.

4.1 Assembly Commission Draft Budget 2014–15: Letter from Angela Burns AM

## **5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**

5.1 The motion was agreed.

## **6 Inquiry into Higher Education Funding: Consideration of Evidence Received**

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence received on the inquiry into higher education funding.

## **7 Housing (Wales) Bill**

7.1 The Committee noted the paper and agreed to invite the Minister for Housing and Regeneration to attend Committee to enable Members to scrutinise him on the financial issues of the Bill.

## **8 UK Government's Initial Response to Silk Commission Part 1**

8.1 The Committee noted the paper and agreed to undertake further work on this issue.