

Professor Wendy Lerner  
President and Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University

17 February 2025

### **Request to appear before Committee**

Dear Professor Lerner,

As the Committee of the Senedd with responsibility for scrutiny of policy and legislation relating to education, we have taken a close interest in your statement of 28 January<sup>1</sup> and the response to that statement from various stakeholders. We note that the proposals announced on 28 January are subject to a formal 90-day consultation. We also note that you anticipate that the specific proposals will be refined and developed over the next 90 days as a result of that consultation process.

We therefore request that you appear before Committee to give evidence in public soon after the formal consultation has ended. We would like to discuss with you the steps leading to your announcement on 28 January, the concerns raised by various stakeholders in relation to your proposals, and how the consultation period had shaped the final plans, which you anticipate will be approved by University Council in June 2025.

We propose a one-hour evidence session on either Thursday 1 May or Wednesday 14 May. Please contact our clerks at your earliest convenience to agree a time and date.

In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could respond in writing to the questions set out at Annex A no later than Friday 21 March. Your responses will help inform our understanding of the context surrounding your announcement on 28 January, and ensure that our discussions in Committee are as constructive as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> Cardiff University, 'Securing our Academic Future', 28 January 2025



Buffy Williams MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Annex A: Questions to Professor Wendy Larner about the proposed changes to Cardiff University

Please can you provide the Committee with:

- an overview of your assessment of the financial challenges facing Cardiff University, with reference to key data that underpins your proposed changes (e.g. current and projected student numbers, take-up rates, levels of Cardiff University reserves, etc.);
- details of any specific policies at Welsh- or UK-government level that have significantly impacted on Cardiff University's ability to operate sustainably;
- the changes that have already been made in recent years by you or your predecessors to mitigate the impact of the financial challenges facing Cardiff University;
- clarification of the rationale for each of the key proposals set out in your statement of 28 January, including whether the proposal has been made strictly for financial reasons or otherwise;
- the expected cost savings associated with each of the key proposals as set out in your statement of January 28;
- more details about what will happen after the consultation closes and associated timelines (including how the consultation responses will shape the final plans, and when those final plans will be drafted); and
- any other information that you feel is relevant to the announcement made on 28 January.