

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George AM
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

16 November 2016

Dear Russell

Thank you for your letter of 4 November on behalf of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills (EIS) Committee. I am pleased that you have had an opportunity to discuss with Professor Diamond the work of the Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance in Wales.

I welcome the views that the Committee has put forward in relation to the Review and I am grateful that you have been able to share the findings and recommendations arising from the stakeholder session organised by the EIS Committee.

I will publish the Welsh Government's detailed response to the Diamond Review's recommendations, together with a consultation on proposals for student support funding on the 22 November following a statement to the Senedd.

I am clear that Wales needs a sustainable and progressive higher education funding settlement that supports students when they most need it, and enables our universities to compete internationally.

As I made clear on the 27 September, Cabinet endorsed the principles contained within the report. Our response will build on our key established principles:

- that we maintain the principle of universalism within a progressive system;
- that we have a 'whole system' approach;
- that investment is shared between Government and those who directly benefit;
- that we enhance accessibility, tackling barriers such as living costs; and
- and that student support is portable across the UK

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

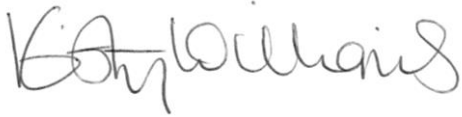
Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg

Cabinet Secretary for Education

cc Alun Davies, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language
Julie James, Minister for Skills and Science