



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/KW/0637/17

Mark Reckless AM
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24th February 2017

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January regarding the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee's enquiry into air quality in Wales and the Education portfolio's contribution to that.

Band A of the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme will see investment of £1.4 billion, which will pay for the rebuild and refurbishment of 150 schools and colleges across Wales over the five year period ending 2019.

The Programme aims to reduce the number of poor condition schools and colleges and make our educational estate more efficient and effective.

All new buildings funded through the Programme required to be BREEAM Excellent and have an EPC rating of A. In addition, we ask for 15% use of recyclates.

Higher Education Institutions in Wales are aware of the contribution they can make to improving air quality and implement a number of measures to reduce harmful emissions. All Welsh universities have externally approved environmental management systems in place which commit them to reducing all harmful emissions arising from the operation of the university, including harmful emissions to air arising from heating, business travel, or other operations within their control. In recent years progress has been made by the sector in reducing these emissions through investment in the estate both in new buildings and in improvements to insulation and heating systems.

All of the Welsh universities complement this approach by the use of travel plans which aim to discourage both staff and students from travelling to university by car, but also include wider approaches that in some cases relate to the development of

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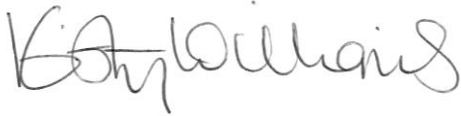
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

new facilities. An example of this is to ensure that student accommodation is built, as far as possible, within walking distance of the campus, or alternatively dedicated bus services are provided to minimise travel by car.

I trust this information is helpful to the Committee's report on air quality in Wales.

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