



Bangor University's response to the National Assembly for Wales' Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee inquiry into Research and Innovation

I am taking this opportunity to write in support of Universities Wales submission to this Inquiry. Bangor University supports and fully endorses the detailed response of Universities Wales to the Committee's inquiry. In our response we would like to endorse the points made in that submission and amplify the key messages it contains and in particular:

- The vital Importance of continued QR funding directed to support research excellence in Universities, a key foundation on which our research and innovation ecosystem rests.
- The comparative underfunding of QR: Welsh universities are underfunded for research and innovation – this is crucial for our ability to compete for funding that will benefit Wales.
- Universities and businesses need to be empowered and local initiative encouraged, not controlled, for Research & Innovation to flourish and benefit Wales.
- Importance of Diamond and Reid Reviews and the timely implementation of their recommendations.
- Further developing Student and Graduate entrepreneurship support and working with Welsh Government to address gaps in provision as well as working with other providers (such as Santander Universities and Virgin Start Up) to strengthen the enterprise journey.
- The restoration of HEFCW's Innovation and Engagement funding (or a HEIF like equivalent) to allow Welsh Universities to take their relationships with businesses to the next level, as well as address the funding gap with English institutions.
- Going forward, and of relevance, to this inquiry is the importance of separating out the current funding issues and Reid implementation from the future PCET reforms.

Bangor University particularly welcomed the Reid Review recommendations as they provide a focussed Research and Innovation extension to the wider context of the original Diamond Review. The University engaged strongly with the review and believes it is a significant step forward in the development of the nation's research and innovation infrastructure. As the Universities Wales response makes clear both in principle and in detail, there are key elements to maintaining and developing the level of high-quality research and innovation infrastructure required for long-term innovation led economic growth. We hope the inquiry recognises and supports these.

The continued focus on regional economic development and placed base innovation contained in Prosperity for All and the Industrial Strategy is to be welcomed. An excellent example of this in practice is the developing North Wales Growth Deal in which research and innovation is acknowledged as a key economic driver and which the University, alongside the business community is deeply engaged.

I would like to wish all the very best with the inquiry and we at Bangor University would welcome the opportunity to further contribute.