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Gareth Price
Clerk of the Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA
** August 2012

Dear Gareth,

Re: A call for information- Welsh Government draft budget proposals for 2013-14

I am writing to you on behalf of UCU Cymru in response to the Finance Committee's call for information on the draft budget proposals for 2013-14. As outlined already, despite not knowing what the draft budget will look like, as it's not due to be published until October 2012, UCU Cymru would like to make some brief comments in our expectations for the Welsh Government's draft budget in relation to further and higher education.

UCU Cymru welcomes the increase in funding in the indicative allocation (2013-14) for post-16 education (which stands at £7m). UCU Cymru would also welcome an increase in the unchanged indicative allocation (2013-14) for higher education (which remains at £380m). UCU Cymru is clear, that this budget must be increased if we are to see a thriving and successful higher education sector in Wales.

UCU Cymru believes that education and educational opportunity, at its very best, is the provider of life chances, and if the Welsh Government is serious about eradicating child poverty by 2020, then any future budget brought forward by the Welsh Government needs to reflect this mission.

UCU Cymru believes this must include the continuation of current funding levels for all post-16 education which needs to cover the facilitation of the transformation agenda, the protection of funding for adult community education, and the removal of any barriers to individuals wanting to access further or higher education.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Lleu Williams, Political Liaison Officer