

Our Mission

Working together to foster fairness, equality and dignity in support of the advancement of knowledge and the education of students.

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Ms Jane Bryant MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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10 July 2023

Annwyl Ms Bryant,

The purpose of this letter is to call upon the Children, Young People and Education Committee to carry out an urgent inquiry into the state of higher education in Wales. This request comes amidst growing concerns over the funding of Welsh universities and the potential loss of [hundreds](#) of jobs because of the withdrawal of European Union structural funds. This situation was recently [described](#) as ‘the precipice of disaster’ by Swansea University’s Vice Chancellor, while Cardiff University’s Vice Chancellor has raised similar [concerns](#) over the sustainability of funding for Welsh universities. As academics we are deeply concerned about any future cuts to higher education funding and what impact this will almost certainly have on students, staff, and educational provision in Wales.

Our call for an inquiry also comes at a time when university staff across Wales have been taking months of industrial [action](#) due to disputes over pay, pensions, and working conditions. An inquiry into the state of higher education in Wales would provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the Minister for Education about the problems facing Welsh universities and the Welsh Government’s response. It would also present an opportunity to question Welsh Vice Chancellors, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, as well as the two Welsh board members of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association. Once

again, as academic staff we are profoundly concerned about the difficulties facing Welsh universities and equally dismayed at the fact that University Vice Chancellors are repeatedly failing to address these concerns.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Aberystwyth University Universities and Colleges Union (UCU)

Bangor UCU

Cardiff Met UCU

Cardiff University UCU

University of South Wales UCU

Swansea University UCU

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