

Sir Derek Jones KCB
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Darren Millar
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Dear Darren,

St March 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Public Accounts Committee in the closing stages of this Assembly term. I hope the Committee found the discussion useful.

Following the discussion on the Committee's report on senior management pay in the public sector, and in particular, senior salaries in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the Committee asked me to explore further whether HEFCW receives financial information, specifically about senior pay and conditions, from universities during the year that could raise concerns in HEFCW or the Welsh Government.

The governing bodies of HEIs are responsible for the remuneration of their senior staff, and these institutions disclose information to HEFCW on senior pay on an annual basis through their annual accounts. HEFCW does not routinely require information in-year.

However, in response to the PAC's report on senior management pay and the Welsh Government's acceptance of the recommendations, the Minister for Education and Skills' remit letter to HEFCW for 2015-16 included a requirement for the Council to monitor senior pay levels and awards in the HE sector and submit a report to the Welsh Government on an annual basis, outlining the position for HEIs in Wales.



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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

HEFCW have confirmed that their report, which will be based on the published financial statements of HEIs, will be submitted by the end of March 2016. Welsh Government officials will be able to review the situation formally once the report has been received.

Lastly, during the discussion on the senior management pay report, Peter Kennedy said that a draft timeline for the implementation of the remaining recommendations would be discussed at the March meeting of the Workforce Partnership Council. I'm afraid this was not correct, however it is our intention to take this to a future meeting of the Council.

Yours,
Derek