

Kirsty Williams AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Rob Humphries  
Chair  
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

[rob.humphreys@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:rob.humphreys@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 January 2021

Dear Rob

I wrote to HEFCW last year asking the Council to take the steps necessary to achieve stability in the Welsh higher education sector without adversely impacting on the opportunities available to study in Wales. I am grateful to HEFCW for the work it has done in relation to monitoring data and institutional behaviour regarding the recruitment of - fulltime undergraduate students in 2020/21.

I recognise that universities are autonomous bodies and are responsible for their admission processes. However, I remain concerned about the signs of an increase in unconditional offers from some higher education institutions as a result of the pandemic. I do not believe that this behaviour is helpful either to students or to institutions. On that basis, I am asking HEFCW, in its capacity as the regulator for higher education in Wales, to monitor this situation. In particular, I would like universities in Wales to refrain, until 30 September 2021, from making unconditional offers that are not in line with standard offers for students who have not already gained the necessary qualifications.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education

cc. David Blaney, CEO, HEFCW  
Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Universities  
Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science  
Diane Dodds MLA, Minister for the Economy

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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.