



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Number: WG43930

Welsh Government
Consultation – summary of responses

Home fee status for those from the Crown Dependencies

Home fee status and tuition fee caps for those moving from the
Crown Dependencies to undertake a course in Wales

January 2022

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

Summary of responses to the Welsh Government's consultation on home fee status and tuition fee caps for those moving from the Crown Dependencies to undertake a course in Wales.

Action Required

This document is for information only.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Additional copies

This summary of response and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

Link to the consultation documentation: <https://gov.wales/home-fee-status-students-crown-dependencies>

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Introduction

1. The Welsh Government undertook a consultation¹ on the proposal to amend certain regulations so that students moving from the Crown Dependencies to undertake certain courses in Wales will be eligible for home fee status and, in relation to courses of higher education, subject to tuition fee caps. This document summarises the key themes from the responses received to that consultation and provides the Welsh Government response.

¹ <https://gov.wales/home-fee-status-students-crown-dependencies> , Welsh Government, 2021, WG42825

Summary

2. The Welsh Ministers were considering an amendment to certain regulations to remove the provisions which currently prevent a person who is ordinarily resident in the UK, as a result of having moved from the Crown Dependencies to undertake a course in Wales, from being treated as ordinarily resident in the UK. The removal of these provisions will enable those persons to benefit from home fee status and, in the case of higher education courses, tuition fee caps, provided they also satisfy all other relevant eligibility criteria.
3. A consultation ran between 2 August 2021 and 25 October 2021. Eight responses were received. The Welsh Government is grateful to those who took the time to submit their views. A range of views were received. Most respondents supported the introduction of the package as described.
4. Following consideration of the responses, the Welsh Government determined to amend the regulations as proposed.

Responses

5. The consultation generated eight responses. Responses were received from a cross-section of the general public and also from higher education institutions ('HEIs'), a trade union, a regulatory body and various representative bodies, mostly within the higher education sector in Wales. A list of respondents is at annex A.

Questions and themes

6. We asked the following questions to establish views on the proposals to extend home fee status and the tuition fee cap to students moving from the Crown Dependencies to undertake study in Wales.

Removal of the relevant provisions

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposal to remove the relevant provisions from the 2007 Regulations and the QCP Regulations?

7. The majority of the respondents welcomed the proposals and were positive about the overall policy with one such respondent advising it was important that there is a level playing field with England. Two respondents disagreed with the proposals whilst one respondent offered no opinion on the proposal but advised that there could be potential funding implications to implement the proposal.

Introduction of change for 2022/23 academic year

Question 2. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce this change for the 2022/23 academic year and to apply to all students on or starting courses at that date? Have we correctly identified the costs and benefits?

8. The majority of the respondents agreed with the proposal to introduce the change for the 2022/23 academic year. Two respondents did not agree but did not provide any rationale as to why they did not agree.

Effects on the Welsh language

Question 3. We would like to know your views on the effects that this proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh
- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

9. Two respondents did not respond to the question. Of the six respondents who did respond, three responded that there would be no effect on the Welsh language. One respondent remarked that the numbers of students was too small to have a meaningful impact and the remainder of the respondents considered that there would be a detrimental impact on the Welsh language.

Opportunities to use the Welsh language

Question 4 Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language;
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

10. More than half of the respondents did not respond to the questions. Of the three respondents that did respond, one respondent commented that there would be no impact whereas another respondent stated it was important to provide the opportunity for students to learn Welsh. One respondent commented that more should be done to help the Welsh population.

Related issues

Question 5. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

11. The majority of respondents did not respond to this question. One respondent commented that the existing arrangements which grant home fee status in Wales to students ordinarily resident in the British Overseas Territories, should be extended to students from the Crown Dependencies.

Conclusion and next steps

12. The Welsh Government is grateful to everyone who responded to the consultation and who gave their time to do so. The Welsh Government has considered these responses carefully. A clear majority support the proposals and the Welsh Government considers that the issues raised do not warrant changes to these proposals. The Welsh Government will now consider amending regulations to enable home fee status and eligibility for the tuition fee cap for the 2022 academic year.

Annex A

List of Respondents

Anonymous (5 responses)

Cardiff University

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

Royal College of Nursing