



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What is the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research?



The Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act establishes the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, a new Welsh Government sponsored body, and dissolves the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW). The Commission, which will be operational in 2024, will be responsible for the funding, oversight, quality and regulation of all tertiary education in Wales. This includes:

- Further education (FE), including colleges and school sixth-forms
- Higher education (HE), including research and innovation
- Adult education and adult community learning
- Apprenticeships and training.

Strategic Vision



Working together, we will deliver a more engaged, excellent and equitable Tertiary Education and Research sector in Wales that prioritises the interests of learners and contributes to national prosperity. We wish to see a joined-up system in Wales that is easy for all learners to navigate, is valued by the public, creates a highly skilled society, tackles inequalities, is globally renowned for excellent education, training, research and innovation, and has a civic mission at its heart.

Our approach will enable learners to move seamlessly from compulsory to tertiary education, building on our national mission for education reform.

Learner support



The Commission will have a statutory duty to prepare, consult and publish a Learner Engagement Code. This Code is intended to ensure learners' interests are represented, that learners have the opportunity to give their views to providers about the education they receive, and to participate in the making of decisions by those providers.

Schools with sixth forms will need to comply with the requirements of the Learner Engagement Code.

Funding, planning and duty to secure proper facilities for learners 16–19



The Commission will have a statutory duty to secure, fund and plan the proper facilities for further education and training of learners aged 16 to 19, including those in maintained school sixth forms.

This includes having regard to delivery through the medium of Welsh and to those learners with additional learning needs in mainstream settings. The Commission will have a role to play in assessing the sufficiency of facilities for ALN provision at a general population (not individual learner) level.

Funding to support maintained school sixth form provision will be allocated by the Commission via local authorities.

FACTSHEET 1: HOW WILL THE COMMISSION FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AFFECT MAINTAINED SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS?

Quality of provision



The Commission will have responsibility for ensuring the quality of post 16 provision and a statutory duty in respect of Estyn core inspection arrangements, post 16 thematic reviews and local area reviews.

The Commission will monitor and promote improvement across education providers. Estyn will continue to inspect and report on the quality of education, including sixth form provision, in line with a framework produced by the Commission.

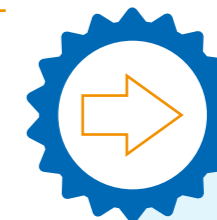
School sixth form organisation



Local authorities will continue to bring forward their own school reorganisation proposals in line with the requirements set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory Code for School Organisation. This has not changed and neither has the duty on Welsh Ministers to consult on the terms of the Code.

The Commission has a role in supporting the organisation of school sixth form provision and a power, in certain limited circumstances, to direct local authorities to prepare plans for sixth form reorganisation, subject to approval by Welsh Ministers.

16–19 curriculum



The Commission will be required to form a local curriculum offer and be involved in the planning and monitoring of post 16 provision across further education and training including school sixth forms.

The post 16 reforms aim to build on and support the broader principles and key purposes of Curriculum for Wales and support the integrity of the wider school system. The Commission will also have a role in providing a seamless and well-informed approach to transition and career pathways for learners entering post 16 education and training.

As with the reforms to the school curriculum, the sector will be supported to help learners grow as engaged and enterprising citizens, contributing to national and individual prosperity and well-being.