



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.

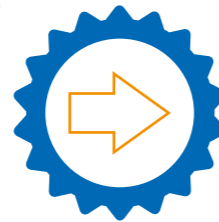
Quality of provision



The Commission will assure and promote improvement in the quality of tertiary education, and will work with the sector to develop a framework for quality assurance and enhancement across post-compulsory education in Wales based on shared principles.

This will provide a more coherent approach to quality assessment, with a single quality framework overseen by the Commission and improved coordination between Estyn and QAA. Estyn will retain a duty to inspect further education and training.

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. The post 16 reforms aim to build on and support the broader principles and key purposes of Curriculum for Wales. It 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, working with Welsh Government and Careers Wales.

As part of **Our National Mission**, the sector will be supported to help learners grow as engaged and enterprising citizens, contributing to national and individual prosperity and well-being.

Collaboration



Whilst there are already examples of best practice of collaboration between providers, the Commission will have a statutory duty to promote greater collaboration in tertiary education. It will need to encourage providers to work together in the interests of learners and business that is more aligned with local, regional, and national education and training needs.

FACTSHEET 2: HOW WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AFFECT FURTHER EDUCATION (FE) INSTITUTIONS?

Planning and funding



The Commission will have a statutory duty to secure, fund and plan proper facilities for further education and training for learners aged 16 to 19, including those in FE institutions.

This includes having regard to delivery through the medium of Welsh and to those learners with additional learning needs (ALN) 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.

In addition, the Commission will have statutory duties to secure, fund and plan facilities for further education and training for learners aged 19 and over. The Commission will have new duties to promote lifelong learning and to ensure that adult education is properly funded.

It is anticipated that a range of funding streams that support the delivery of further education, such as funding for mental health and wellbeing, professional learning and quality enhancement, will become the responsibility of the Commission.

Learners



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 can give their views to providers about the education they receive, and to participate in the making of decisions by those providers. FE institutions will need to comply with the requirements of the Learner Engagement Code.

The Commission may also require FE providers to produce a Learner Protection Plan, setting out how a provider will protect learners' interests in the event of course disruption or closure, and how providers might facilitate the transfer of learners to other providers.

Register of tertiary education providers



The Commission will be required to maintain a register of tertiary education providers in Wales. Initially, this will focus on higher education providers, replacing the current higher education regulatory oversight regime operated by HEFCW. It is proposed that FE Institutions that provide higher education courses will need to register to ensure that their courses are automatically designated for Welsh Government student support. Providers of further education and training will be primarily regulated through the terms and conditions attached to grant funding received from the Commission. The Act enables the categories of the register to be expanded to encompass a wider range of tertiary education should the need arise in future.