



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.

One of the Commission's strategic duties is to contribute to a sustainable and innovative economy. The Commission will be empowered to ensure that our tertiary education and research sector is organised to meet the needs of learners, the economy and employers.

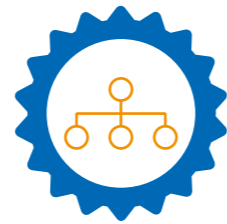
A new, clear definition of a Welsh apprenticeship



The previous legislative framework for apprenticeships was not designed with Wales in mind and is no longer flexible enough to cater for the rapidly changing skill needs of both employers and learners.

A new Wales specific apprenticeship system will provide a clear definition of a Welsh apprenticeship that is flexible and responsive to the needs of our learners and employers, and supports the development of a robust and innovative Welsh economy.

Apprenticeship Frameworks



Within the specifications consulted upon and published by Welsh Ministers, the Commission will have flexibility to develop new apprenticeship frameworks, to delegate the development to other bodies, and to keep existing apprenticeships up-to-date to meet changing skills needs. They will do this by engaging fully with businesses, employers, learning providers, and Regional Skills Partnerships.

Apprenticeship frameworks will set out the requirements for completing a Welsh apprenticeship in a specific occupation.

The Commission will keep a register of all apprenticeship frameworks that are approved for use and will be responsible for reviewing and maintaining the published frameworks and for the certification of apprenticeships.

FACTSHEET 4: HOW WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AFFECT APPRENTICESHIPS?

Funding



Until now apprenticeships below degree level have been funded by Welsh Ministers by means of a fully procured tender exercise, whilst degree apprenticeships have been funded by Welsh Ministers through the Higher Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) via a grant scheme. Going forward the Commission will determine how apprenticeship provision is commissioned and funded.

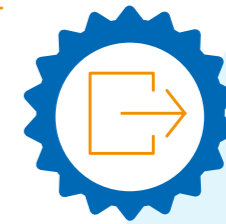
Collaboration



With the establishment of the Commission, a single organisation will have responsibility for ensuring the Welsh economy has the skills it needs for businesses and communities to thrive, encouraging close collaboration between the Commission, providers, and Regional Skills Partnerships to inform planning, funding and strategic planning.

As the Welsh apprenticeships offer continues to develop, the Commission will support colleges, training providers, universities, and employers to work more closely together to develop coherent pathways through the apprenticeship system.

Transitional arrangements



The current contractual arrangements began on 1 August 2021 and last until 31 July 2025. These contracts will transfer from Welsh Ministers to the Commission when it becomes operational. There remains an option to extend the agreements on an annual basis until 31 July 2027, should the Commission decide to do so.