

## 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.

## Cymraeg 2050



It is envisaged that the Commission will be enabled to facilitate transformational change across the sector and contribute significantly to the achievement of our targets in *Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy* as well as being able to monitor progress against targets. Part of this will be creating a 'change of gear' to expand the Welsh-medium and bilingual offer within tertiary education. Alongside this the aim is that the Commission will create more opportunities for all learners in tertiary education to develop and broaden their understanding and engagement with the Welsh language and Welsh cultural life, and crucially more opportunities for learners to study through the medium of Welsh.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Strategic duties

The Act sets out eleven strategic duties under which the Commission is required to exercise its functions. These legal duties are the long-term strategic purposes for the tertiary education system and reflect the Government's vision.

On receipt of its strategic priorities, as set out in the statement of priorities to be published by the Welsh Ministers in accordance with the Act, the Commission will be required to produce and publish a strategic plan setting out how it intends to address the strategic priorities and discharge its strategic duties, and take all reasonable steps to implement the strategic plan.

Promoting tertiary education through the medium of Welsh is one of the strategic duties requiring the Commission to:

- encourage demand for, and participation in, tertiary education provided through the medium of Welsh
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that there is sufficient tertiary education provided through the medium of Welsh to meet demand
- encourage the provision of tertiary education through the medium of Welsh.



## FACTSHEET 5: HOW WILL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AFFECT WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION?

## Building demand for Welsh medium education



The Commission will be expected to go beyond meeting the current demand for Welsh medium provision and actively build demand for and encourage individuals to participate in tertiary education through the medium of Welsh. The objective is to broaden the choice for learners to study through the medium of Welsh. It will be a matter for the Commission to determine how this will be achieved.

## Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol



In accordance with the Act, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has been designated to advise the Commission on its strategic duty to promote tertiary education through the medium of Welsh.

The Coleg has extensive existing networks and a wealth of experience in developing and supporting Welsh-medium tertiary education, together with their experience of working with Welsh Government in a Welsh-medium related policy context. The designation of the Coleg enables the Commission to benefit from its expertise and ensure the two bodies can work collaboratively and strategically to build demand for, and encourage individuals to participate in, tertiary education through the medium of Welsh.

## Funding of Welsh medium tertiary education



The Act enables Welsh Government to allocate financial resources to the Commission for all types of tertiary education and enables the Commission to provide funding to education providers to teach courses in Welsh and to support the costs of teaching in Welsh.

The Commission could also provide specific funding to support Welsh-medium education, including training for teachers, promoting learning opportunities to prospective learners, developing resources, as well as potentially funding research on Welsh-medium education and training in Wales. It is envisaged that it will also promote the use of Welsh as an academic medium, including supporting research through the medium of Welsh.

It will also be well placed, in conjunction with the Coleg to identify sectors within the economy where there are shortages of individuals able to undertake their role bilingually. The Commission might decide to prioritise courses for sectors that lack staff with Welsh language skills, increasing the availability of Welsh-medium technical and vocational provision and supporting learners to engage confidently in these.

Welsh Government will continue to be able to allocate financial resources to support both the development and delivery of Welsh-medium tertiary provision.