

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/03167/20
Nicola Pratt

N.C.Pratt@warwick.ac.uk

1 July 2020

Dear Nicola Pratt,

Thank you for your letter dated 17th June regarding a call for further funding for the higher education sector.

I'm proud that our universities and colleges have all stepped up in the fight against Covid-19 and their contribution to research, innovation, skills and employment will be vital for our economic recovery as a nation. However, we do not yet know for sure the impact the pandemic and public health measures will have on the size and shape of domestic and international student demand this autumn. The scale of the financial challenge that universities are facing is significant and may be beyond devolved administration budgets. We welcome further discussions with HM Treasury about this to maintain the strength, stability and strategic direction of our sector as a whole.

I have recently published a higher education policy statement (<https://gov.wales/higher-education-policy-statement-coronavirus-html>). This statement outlines what the Welsh Government is doing to support universities and students dealing with the effects of Coronavirus. It outlines some of the actions we are taking to support financial pressures, such as providing an indicative annual grant to HEFCW, and bringing forward SLC tuition fee payments to institutions so that a greater than usual proportion of funding is available in autumn.

We also welcome the UK Government's announcement on 27th June of additional support for research. However, we would prefer that such funding be allocated to the devolved administrations in order to maximise the support we can provide to the higher education sector in Wales.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

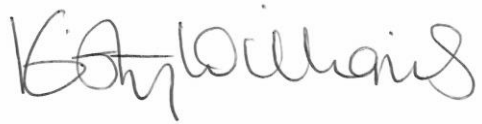
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

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