

Thursday 13 March 2.45pm at UWTSD, Lampeter campus.

10 key points for the Prif Weinidog's consideration

- The higher education sector in Wales, and in the rest of the UK, is currently experiencing financial challenges.

DIARY CASE



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

PREAMBLE

Who is the Prif Weinidog meeting?	[REDACTED]
Who requested the meeting?	[REDACTED]
Primary purpose	[REDACTED]
Is there an agreed agenda?	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]
Which officials are supporting the Prif Weinidog?	[REDACTED]
Where is the meeting?	[REDACTED]
Has the Prif Weinidog been asked to speak?	N/A
Other practical considerations	[REDACTED]

DIARY CASE BRIEFING

Purpose

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Financial challenges in the higher education sector in Wales

The higher education sector in Wales, and in the rest of the UK, is currently experiencing financial challenges. There have been recent announcements by Cardiff University, Bangor University and the University of South Wales, setting out plans to address some of these challenges. These plans include staff losses, the closure of some courses and the merger of some schools of learning.

[REDACTED]

The Minister for Further and Higher Education has recently met with the vice chancellor of every Welsh university, representatives of Universities and Colleges Union, and the National Union of

Students, to further understand the pressures facing the sector and explore how Welsh Government can provide support through this difficult period. The Minister for Further and Higher Education also held a roundtable discussion with vice chancellors of universities in Wales, leadership of Universities Wales, and the Chief Executive of Medr on 3 March [REDACTED]

On 18 February the Minister for Further and Higher Education announced an additional £18.5m capital funding this financial year in recognition of the significant financial challenges facing higher education. This funding is being allocated by Medr, and the Minister for Further and Higher Education will be asking that every effort is made for institutions to demonstrate how the additional monies is being spent.

There are concerns over participation levels in the higher education sector. Participation in tertiary education, including HE, is affected by what happens in education leading up to that point. As such, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and the Minister for Further and Higher Education are focused on increasing attendance and improving attainment in schools. Both of these would lead to increased participation in tertiary education. The Welsh Government is taking a cross-government approach to increasing participation and a programme board has been set-up to co-ordinate and take forward this work.

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