Commission for Tertiary Education and Research
Shaping the Future of Post-16 Education in Wales
Foreword

My ambition is to develop a joined up post-compulsory education and training system in Wales that is easy to navigate for our learners, maximises its public value, creates a highly skilled society, tackles inequalities, and has a civic mission at its heart.

Kirsty Williams
Minister for Education
A PCET system that strengthens Wales’ economic wellbeing, encourages enterprise and collaboration with businesses and provides the skills employers and workers need.

An accessible and effective PCET system that supports learning, assessment and progression through the medium of Welsh.

A system that provides lifelong learning and development for all and supports people to make informed choices about their future.

PCET providers which maximise public value and are economically and environmentally sustainable.

PCET providers which are diverse and cohesive communities of learning and integral to the communities they serve.
Proposed responsibilities of the Commission

**STRATEGY**
The Commission will, in partnership with providers, learners, and practitioners, prepare and deliver a strategy for the PCET sector, which addresses social, economic, cultural and environmental priorities outlined by Welsh Ministers.

**QUALITY**
In partnership with Estyn and other bodies, the Commission will assure and promote improvement and enhancement of the quality of education and training in the PCET sector.

**FUNDING**
The Commission will plan and allocate funding for HE and FE, school sixth forms, adult community learning, apprenticeships and research and innovation, in accordance with its strategic priorities.

**APPRENTICESHIPS**
The Commission will develop and approve apprenticeship frameworks, in partnership with employers, professional bodies, and training providers.

**OVERSIGHT**
The Commission will regulate and measure the performance of providers, protect and promote the interests of learners, students, and apprentices, and ensure that the PCET sector is delivering positive outcomes for Wales.

**DATA AND INFORMATION**
The Commission will be a hub for insight and data, it will provide and publish information to better inform students, partners, providers and employers on the options available to them.
**Our Ambitions**

Students, Learners and Apprentices

- A joined-up national focus on the challenges facing students, learners and apprentices across the whole PCET sector.
- More information available on options in schools, further education, apprenticeships or higher education.
- Better protections for student rights including a new right to a complaints scheme in further education.
- More opportunities to have your voice heard in the running of your university or college.

**Further Education, Colleges and Schools with Sixth Forms**

- A new approach to funding with one organisation responsible for planning and funding post-16 education in schools (via local authorities) and colleges.
- A more coherent approach to quality assessment with a single quality framework overseen by the Commission and improved coordination between Estyn and QAA.
- Improved collaboration and partnership between providers, working together in the interests of learners.
- Longer-term strategic oversight and alignment with local, regional and national education and training needs.
Our Ambitions
Universities/other Higher Education Providers

A more level playing field in regulation between “established” full-time undergraduate providers and part-time, distance and postgraduate providers.

Clearer and more coherent regulation of providers which can adjust to the changing size and shape of the sector and the changing needs of Wales.

A more strategic approach to widening access and opportunity with a longer term focus on securing positive outcomes.

New opportunities for collaborating with external bodies in research and innovation funded by the Commission.

Our Ambitions
Employers and Training Providers

A new, clear definition of a Welsh apprenticeship, establishing a gold standard for Welsh apprenticeships as sought-after and valued pathways from education into employment.

A single organisation responsible for ensuring the Welsh economy has the skills it needs for businesses and communities to thrive.

More flexibility to develop new apprenticeship frameworks and to keep existing apprenticeships up-to-date to meet changing skills needs.

Close collaboration between the Commission, providers, and Regional Skills Partnerships to inform planning, funding and strategic planning.