



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Developing professionals for the future of Welsh procurement

The Welsh Government has implemented an ambitious plan to build capacity and capability in public sector procurement. Its goal is not just to upskill professionals but to equip them to support the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. At this pivotal moment, the Welsh Government chose CIPS' accelerated, applied-learning qualification to play a part in creating professionals of the future.

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The Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award) accelerates learning and is effective because it is directly linked to the day-to-day work of the students and their organisation gets the benefits of the real-world assignments they work on.”

Denise Raffill

Senior Commercial Capability and Leadership Manager
Welsh Government

CASE STUDY
APPLIED
LEARNING
PROGRAMME





Working for well-being

When the Welsh Government launched its plan four years ago, there was a shortage of public procurement professionals and a need to develop a more commercially mature workforce. The Covid era exacerbated the situation, bringing unprecedented procurement pressures and a focus on accountability.

Procurement had already been named as a lever for change in Wales' groundbreaking Well-being of Future Generations Act, which will transform the way procurement is planned and delivered. On the horizon, three new procurement bills were also set to bring significant change.

Against this backdrop, the Welsh Government decided that its planned training must extend beyond its own procurement function. It determined to include the wider public sector, to improve the effectiveness of public procurement as a whole and to increase its benefit to the Welsh economy and society.



Pragmatic approach

The Welsh Government had long looked to CIPS for professional procurement training. This time, the need for speed and the immediate application of learning led it to CIPS' Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award).

CIPS initially tailored the course content to the Welsh public sector, ensuring it was relevant and reflected the region's procurement policies and wider Government strategies. This brought everything to life for students and bolstered the practical value of the programme.

Students also appreciate how the assessed assignments enable them to apply their newly acquired knowledge to real-world challenges in their own organisations - and earn plaudits for their solutions and innovations. Pass rates have been outstanding and applications for the programme have increased year on year.

The benefits for the Welsh Government

The Welsh Government expects future surveys to confirm that CIPS' Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award) is delivering a fast return on investment and benefiting Welsh public procurement and the country by:

- Growing professional capability to drive better spend of the Welsh pound
- Equipping procurement professionals with best practice knowledge, new ways of thinking and problem solving skills
- Supporting practical application of procurement theory into practice across Wales
- Growing the professional status of procurement in Wales and its attractiveness as a career
- Enabling procurement professionals to fulfil their potential in Wales and for the Welsh public sector to retain talent
- Creating procurement capacity by increasing the number of trained procurement professionals and future leaders
- Raising the profile of what the profession is doing and its potential for regional impact.



Opening opportunities

The popularity of CIPS' Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award) as an exam-free route to chartered professional status up to MCIPS has been a boon for the Welsh Government. It has meant that student numbers are high and new professional networks are being developed enthusiastically among past and present students.

Tracy Pope who is the Head of Healthcare Contracting at Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, is one such student. 'My experience of studying and success on the Programme has given me a passion and enthusiasm to achieve full MCIPS accreditation by developing my skills and knowledge further' she says, "The opportunity to develop my skillset through a work based applied learning programme has brought measurable benefits to both myself, my team and organisationally."

For the Welsh Government, the impact of the programme is clear. They are seeing students go back out into their organisations across the region with greater confidence and knowledge and, critically, the ability to apply and share their learning.

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Increasing the long-term sustainability and growth of the profession in Wales is key to delivery in a new era for procurement. The CIPS Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award) is one of key options provided by the Welsh Government in its commitment to gain, retain and develop talent. I am keen that we fulfil our role as a strategic partner by providing learning and developing opportunities to build the operating model of the future for the Welsh public sector.”

John Coyne

Director, Commercial and Procurement
Welsh Government

£8.74

Billion spent annually by the public sector in Wales

Progress achieved

230

The Welsh Government has funded Applied Learning Programme (Corporate Award) qualifications **for over 230 places**

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There are so many changes impacting procurement in Wales and it's a really exciting time to be working in the public sector. We want to be able to support the Welsh Government in its capability drive because that's what our role as a public professional body is all about.”

Emma Clements
Head of Corporate Sales
CIPS



About the Applied Learning Programme

- **No exams**
Work-based assignments instead of exams drive learning directly back into the business and provide proven return on investment.
- **Recognised accreditation**
Offers a professional route for your teams up to MCIPS and Chartered status.
- **Tailored to you**
Modified to meet specific challenges faced by your organisation.
- **Develop talent**
By offering a pathway for career progression you can attract, retain and develop talent.



Scan the QR code for more information

Want to see how we can develop your procurement and supply team?

Get in touch with us:
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www.cips.org/cips-for-business