

**From: Rhian.Haggett@wales.gsi.gov.uk; on behalf of;  
StudentFinanceDivision@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK**

**To:**

**cc. StudentFinanceDivision@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK; Armed Forces  
<ArmedForces@wales.gsi.gov.uk>**

**16SFS101 HED reply to re Service Leavers Funding for Higher Education Tuition Fees**

Dear

Thank you for your email of 22 April to the Armed Forces team within the Welsh Government. Your email has been transferred to the Higher Education Division and I have been asked to reply.

In terms of extending the definition of a first degree to include a 'postgraduate degree', none of the UK administrations has plans to change the current meaning of a designated course where 'a first degree course' is a BA, BSc or Foundation.

The Welsh Government expects to introduce a postgraduate loan scheme in 2017/18 and recently published a consultation outlining a proposed interim scheme to be implemented pending the outcome of the Diamond review. The consultation is available via the link below and I would urge you to respond so that your views can be considered in developing the proposed scheme. The consultation period closes on 26 May.

<http://gov.wales/consultations/education/support-for-postgraduate-study-and-part-time-engineering/?skip=1&lang=en>

Professor Sir Ian Diamond and a panel of experts are also considering the issue of postgraduate funding as part of a wider review into higher education and student finance. The 'Summary of Evidence' was published in December 2015 and can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/151215-review-of-higher-education-funding-and-student-finance-arrangements-in-wales-call-for-evidence-summary-of-responses-en.pdf>

The final report is due to be published by September.

Regarding your request for the eligibility for the schemes to be amended to allow service members/veterans to apply regardless of discharge date, I'm afraid this is a matter for the UK Government and not the Welsh Government as responsibility for the Armed Forces is not a devolved matter. I advise that you write to Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister of State for Armed Forces. Ms Mordaunt can be contacted either in writing at: Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB or by telephone on: 020 7218 9000.

Kind regards

**Rhian Haggett** *Is-adran Addysg Uwch / Higher Education Division Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government*

Gwefan: [www.cyllidmyfyrwryrcymru.co.uk](http://www.cyllidmyfyrwryrcymru.co.uk) Website: [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

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.