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Briefing on Unis Wales research into the economic impact of international students:

(Press release to follow, this is a pre-briefing with headline figures and background information)

Key messages:

- International students bring immense cultural, social and economic **benefits to Wales**.
- This report shows the significant and positive economic benefit to Wales of hosting international students.
- In 2015/16, international students and their visitors generated **£716m of Welsh output**, created **£372m** (equivalent to 0.7%) of **Welsh GVA** through expenditure, and generated over 6850 FTE jobs, (equivalent to **0.5%** of Welsh employment).
- Impact **flowed to areas even without a university presence. 1,598 jobs and £82m of GVA** were created in areas which do not have a university presence.
- Since 2013/14, Non-EU international student numbers have **dropped by 3230, or 16.2%**. (This equates to a **loss of £59.8m of Welsh GDP, and the equivalent of 1098 additional jobs**.)
- These reductions are likely to be offset in future recruitment trends by the ongoing **proactive work of the Welsh Government and Welsh universities in fostering positive relationships** with the global higher education market, particularly in South Asia where we have seen the biggest reduction.
- This data is taken from the year 2015/16, prior to the EU referendum.

1. Profile and characteristics of international students in Wales

- **22,190 international students** in Welsh universities 2015/16- from **140 countries** from both the rest of the EU and Non-EU countries.
- **5460 (25%)** from other-EU countries (beyond the UK), and 16,730 (75%) from outside the EU
- International students make up **17% of the total** 128,670 students in Wales.
- The **largest cohort of international students come from Asia 44%**. Followed by 25% EU, Africa 11.3%, Middle East 12.5%.
- EU student numbers have remained much the same over the past two years.

1. Headline findings from report.

- International students bring immense social, cultural and economic benefits to Welsh universities
- The international dimension of Welsh higher education is of considerable value to Wales, in terms of making international connections and acting as a bridge between Wales and the global economy.
- It increases the country's presence on the world stage with the additional economic and cultural benefits that could bring

- By attracting students from over 140 countries abroad, the higher education sector is contributing, both immediately and in the longer term, to the goal of raising the country's profile and attracting investment
- Welsh universities not only contribute to an outward-looking, international Wales, but bring immense economic, social and cultural benefits to Wales through our globally connected institutions.

International students are having an immediate and positive impact on the Welsh economy:

- Overall, in 2015/16, international students and their visitors generated **£716m of Welsh output, £372m (equivalent to 0.7%) GVA** through expenditure, and generated over **6850 FTE jobs** (equivalent to **0.5%**) of Welsh employment.

2.1 GVA

The spending of international students and their visitors generated **£372 million of Welsh GVA** – which was equivalent to **0.7% of 2015 Welsh GVA**.

2.2 Export Earnings

International students and their visitors spent **£487 million in 2015/16**. This was equivalent to **3.7% of all 2015 Welsh exports**. This was also greater than the total estimated 2016 international tourist and visitor spend in Wales.

2.3 Output

The expenditure of international students and their visitors generated **£716m of Welsh output** across Wales.

2.4 Jobs

The spending of international students and their visitors generated over **6850 full time equivalent jobs in Wales**, equivalent to nearly **0.5% of Welsh employment**.

2.5 Distribution of impact

The analysis also showed that impact **flowed across Wales including to areas that do not have a university presence**.

- **1,598 jobs and £82m of GVA** were created in areas which do not have a university presence

2. **Methodology**

- This report updates an earlier 2015 study, and presents an analysis of the 2015/16 economic impact on Wales of International students.
- Student and visitor expenditure and its impact on the Welsh economy was modelled using a purpose designed input-out based modelling system, designed for analysis of higher education institutional and student impact.
- A Welsh higher education 'gravity-model' was developed and used to examine how impact flows out across Wales from centres of higher education student concentration.