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11 September 2018

Dear Kirsty

**TEF Year Four (2019) participation for HE providers in Wales**

Further to your letter of the 24 August concerning the assessment ratings of Welsh higher education providers in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) Year Four, I am writing to confirm that the Office for Students (OfS) will notify providers in Wales of the need for the Welsh Ministers to give their consent for the OfS to undertake assessments of any TEF applications they may elect to make.

We will write the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (section 25) requirements into the TEF Year Four procedural guidance, due for publication mid-October. We are working with your officials to agree the details but the guidance will set out the need for Welsh higher education providers to notify the Welsh Government if they intend to apply for a TEF award, stipulate that the OfS may only award a TEF rating to higher education providers in Wales if Welsh Ministers give their consent, and that such consent is subject to review and may be revoked. The process should provide time for your consideration of such requests and for your consent decisions to be received by the OfS ahead of the TEF assessment process.

During 2018-19 we will also carry out a second year of subject-level TEF pilots. As no awards for individual providers will be published as a result of the pilot, I assume that you would be content for individual providers from Wales to participate if they so wish.

Yours sincerely *& with very best wishes,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael'.

**Sir Michael Barber**  
Chair  
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CC

Welsh Government official 1  
Welsh Government official 2