

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA P KW 5599 19

David Jones OBE, DL
Chair of Qualifications Wales
Q2 Building, Pencarn Lane,
Newport
NP10 8UH

March 2020

Dear David,

Term of Government remit letter for Qualifications Wales

I am writing to confirm the Grant Allocation to Qualifications Wales for 2020-2021. The grant is made to allow Qualifications Wales to carry out its functions as set out in the Qualifications Wales Act 2015.

The Welsh Government's Programme for Government sets out how we will support young people in Wales to make the most of their potential. Qualifications Wales makes an important contribution to the delivery of the Welsh Government's programme through its work as the independent regulator to ensure there is a robust qualifications system, which meets the needs of learners and promotes public confidence, as well as current work in determining and delivering the reforms required to qualifications to support the Curriculum for Wales.

Section 3 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 requires Qualifications Wales to act in a way it considers appropriate for the purpose of achieving the principal aims of ensuring qualifications, and the Welsh qualification system, are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales, and of promoting public confidence in qualifications and the system. The Act also requires Qualifications Wales to have regard to the matters listed in section 3(2) when considering what is appropriate for achieving those principal aims.

Section 51 of the Qualifications Wales Act 2015 requires Qualifications Wales to provide advice and information to the Welsh Ministers on matters relating to qualifications and the qualifications system in Wales; I anticipate my officials will write to you during 2020-21 to request such advice.

As you are aware, the Welsh Government does not set your strategic objectives as the 2015 Act gives you a degree of independence as the independent qualifications regulator. You do, however, have to prepare an Annual Report which is scrutinised by the Senedd, as well as a Business Plan containing the organisation's operational priorities for the year ahead.

I have written to you separately setting out the funding available for 2020-21 the final year of this term of Government's activity.

Wellbeing of Future Generations Requirements

The Welsh Government requires all public bodies in Wales to work in line with the five ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. You will be expected to discuss with your partnership team how Qualifications Wales is using the five ways of working, your contribution to achieving the seven wellbeing goals, and how this approach will develop year on year.

Funding

Confirmation of funding for the 2020-21 year of activity is set out in the annual funding confirmation letter. In future years you will be provided with a term of Government remit letter and then annual funding letters. Where possible an indication of funding for future years will also be provided.

Oversight Arrangements

Oversight and reporting arrangements are already in place, as detailed in the Framework Agreement. An addendum to this Framework Agreement has been developed to reflect the Welsh Government's revised approach to managing sponsored bodies and this is in the process of being agreed.

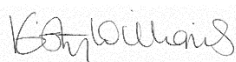
The Welsh Government operates a risk-based approach to oversight, working with public bodies to identify the appropriate level of oversight and monitoring for the individual organisation. The partnership team will undertake periodic assessments of the assurance available to them, and will also consider on an annual basis during the term of government the need for a tailored review of the organisation.

These arrangements will remain in force for the lifetime of this administration, although discussions will be held with you if ministerial priorities change. At the end of this term of Government, the arrangements set out in this remit letter will remain in place until superseded.

This letter should be considered in conjunction with the Framework Agreement.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Williams AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education