

28TH JANUARY 2020 – WALES ASSOCIATION TO ERASMUS

From: Redacted section 40

Sent: 28 January 2020 17:43:06

To: Redacted section 40

Cc: Redacted section 40

Subject: Erasmus+

Hi Redacted section 40

Hope you're well. Two quick things:

1. To bring to your attention: colleagues from Scotland have indicated to me that they do not expect the European Commission to be engaging with the UK on association to the future Erasmus+ programme until the budget regulations have been set, and they were told they don't expect that to be until December at the earliest. Is that consistent with what you've heard? There are some obvious challenges associated with that, as I'm sure you're aware, so it would be helpful to have any insight you may have.

2. Secondly, will you be attending the next meeting of HEBWG, and if so, would you be able to give a quick update – as a short paper, if possible, but otherwise orally is fine – on the issue we previously discussed about Wales associating to Erasmus+ outside of the UK? You may have seen that the recently published 'Negotiating Priorities for Wales' outlines a possible intention for Wales to explore participation in EU Programmes even where the UK decides not to take part in future. I'll attach the file and relevant sections below.

Very best wishes,

Redacted section 40

P2: 'Given the importance of our relationships with the EU we believe in a number of importance areas the UK's future relationship with the EU needs to be closer and deeper than as set out in the Political Declaration, including:

- Continued participation in important EU programmes, including but not limited to Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Creative Europe and INTERREG.

- Recognition that devolved governments may seek to be involved in EU programmes even if some or all of the rest of the United Kingdom does not choose to;
- Urgent need to obtain a positive adequacy assessment from the EU to secure data flows;
- Finally the Devolved Governments must be fully involved in the negotiations and in the Joint Committee that will oversee the implementation of the arrangements.'

P5:

- Paragraph 11 [of the political declaration] sets out a broad spectrum for potential UK participation in EU programmes and initiatives and recognises the need for a 'fair and appropriate financial contribution' from the UK. The text specifics 'areas such as science and innovation, youth, culture and education'. The Welsh Government has consistently emphasised as a priority the need for continuing access to EU programmes which have brought demonstrable benefits to Wales, such as Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ and Creative Europe.

...

- The future relationship with the EU should explicitly recognise that Devolved Governments may seek to be involved in EU programmes (current and/or future) directly, even where some or all of the rest of the United Kingdom does not choose to. Where the funding to participate in such programmes has previously been held centrally, we must receive our share of these resources as an additional allocation to the Welsh Government's bloc grant.
- In addition, for those programmes where continued participation is not possible, the UK Government must replace EU funding that would otherwise have come to Wales. We will oppose any moves by the UK Government which would seek to bypass the devolution settlement and take away decisions and funding that has been under Welsh Government control for nearly 20 years.

Redacted section 40

Tertiary Education EU Exit Policy & Engagement Manager Y Trefniadau Pontio
 Ewropeaidd mewn Addysg Drydyddol / European Transition in Tertiary Education
 Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government

Redacted section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Redacted section 40

Sent: 28 January 2020 17:45

To: Redacted section 40

Subject: Re: Erasmus+

Dear Redacted section 40

I'm sure Redacted section 40 can add more but a few thoughts in response.

There may be a bit of a push on the budget as a special European Council meeting has been called for next month to focus on the MFF which may lead to a quicker process, but that is by no means guaranteed.

We had previously heard early autumn for the budget during the first few months of the German Presidency but again that could result in final details such as regulations not being ready until December so could be in line with what you have heard.

I am meeting Scottish Government colleagues in Brussels later this week so will let you know if anything emerges on Erasmus. We have also made enquiries on the state of the Erasmus negotiations but for understandable reasons much of the MEPs focus this month has been on other matters.

We may know a bit more by March on the future relationship but that is likely to be more in relation to Horizon rather than Erasmus although the Parliamentary shenanigans did prompt a bit of UK Government support for Erasmus.

Best wishes

10 JULY 2020 – FEEDBACK FROM EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY OFFICES IN BRUSSELS

From: Redacted section 40

Sent: 10 July 2020 10:00

To: Redacted section 40

Cc: Redacted section 40

Subject: RE: Redacted section 40and Erasmus

Dear Redacted section 40

On Erasmus we are picking up concerns from colleagues in European university offices in Brussels around the lack of UK enthusiasm in Erasmus and the alternative plan that is only focused on outward mobility from the UK. If there is anything additional from the Welsh perspective that would be useful for us do let us know.

Thanks again and best wishes

Redacted section 40

Strategic Development Officer

Welsh Higher Education Brussels

From: Redacted section 40

Sent: 10 July 2020 10:33

To: Redacted section 40

Cc: Redacted section 40

Subject: RE: Redacted section 40 and Erasmus

Thanks Redacted section 40

On Erasmus: obviously emphasise that the lack of enthusiasm is UKG – all the DAs remain very enthusiastic. I should also say that our policy position is technically that they should let us join even if England isn't keen. (I've attached a letter showing how this gets laid out which may be of general interest if you haven't seen it). {Note: Counsel General letter to Michael Gove dated 18th June 2020}

If you have 10 minutes for a call today and think it would be helpful let me know.

Redacted section 40

Tertiary Education EU Exit Policy & Engagement Manager

From: Redacted Section 40

On Behalf Of EAG Mailbox

Sent: 15 May 2020 16:03

To: Redacted Section 40

Cc: Redacted Section 40

Subject: RE: Cynhelir cyfarfod y Grŵp Cynghori ar Ewrop nesaf ar Dydd Iau, 21 Mai am 14:00 - 15:00 / The next European Advisory Group meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 May at 14:00 -15:00

Dear Louise,

Firstly, many apologies for the delay in my response.

I am very well thank you and I hope all is well with you and your family too.

Thank you for your email advising us that you will not be able to join the European Advisory Group meeting, your apologies have been noted.

I also acknowledge and fully understand your wish to be removed from the European Advisory Group distribution list; I will let the Counsel General & Minister for European Transition and the Chair know.

With all good wishes,

Redacted Section 40

Tîm Pontio Ewropeaidd / European Transition Team

Swyddfa'r Prif Weinidog Cymru a Swyddfa'r Cabinet / Office of the First Minister and Cabinet Office

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Parc Cathays / Cathays Park

Caerdydd / Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Redacted Section 40

www.llyw.cymru/brexit / www.gov.wales/brexit

Dylai unrhyw ddatganiadau neu sylwadau a wneir uchod gael eu hystyried yn rhai personol ac nid yn rhai gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, unrhyw ran ohoni neu unrhyw gorff sy'n gysylltiedig â hi.

Any of the statements or comments made above should be regarded as personal and not those of the Welsh Government, any constituent part or connected body.

From: Redacted Section 40

Sent: 12 May 2020 18:55

To: Redacted Section 40

Subject: RE: Cynhelir cyfarfod y Grŵp Cynghori ar Ewrop nesaf ar Dydd Iau, 21 Mai am 14:00 - 15:00 / The next European Advisory Group meeting will be held on Thursday, 21 May at 14:00 -15:00

Apologies I won't be able to join – I think I should be removed from the distribution list too – I'm sorry I can't give more time at the moment. Hope you are all safe and well. Louise