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Press release

Date: 19 June 2006
Title: Arising higher - HEFCW Chairman awarded Knighthood



Professor Roger Williams, Chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), has been awarded a Knighthood in the 2006 Queen's Birthday Honours list in recognition of his services to higher education.

Speaking in Cardiff, Professor Williams said:

"I am hugely pleased to be awarded this honour. I feel immensely privileged to be Chairman of HEFCW after working away from Wales for so many years. I value the work of the Chief Executive and staff at HEFCW, who really have supported me in this unique role in higher education in Wales. Furthermore, I must not forget the support of my former colleagues at the University of Reading, without whom I would not have had the pleasure of receiving this honour, and of course my wife and family, who are, needless to say, delighted.

"We have done a lot in recent years to strengthen HE in Wales in research terms, such as the merger of Cardiff University and the University of Wales College of Medicine and the Research and Enterprise Partnership between the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and the University of Wales, Bangor. There is still a lot to do across Wales, not least in delivering the vision of strong post-92 provision in south-east Wales."

Professor Williams was educated at Tredegar Grammar School and Worcester College, Oxford, where he is an honorary fellow. Following a period with the National Coal Board in Operational Research, he was on the staff of the University of Manchester from 1966 to 1993 with periods of secondment in the US, Canada and Australia. He was Special Adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology from 1986 to 1992 and was Chairman of the joint Committee of the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading from 1993 to 2002.

Professor Williams joined as a HEFCW Council member in 1995 and was appointed Chairman on 1 March 2002 for a period of 3 years, to 28 February 2005, after which he was reappointed until February 2008.

End.

Media contacts

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Notes to Editors

1. Background - HEFCW

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is an Assembly Sponsored Public Body, established in May 1992, which assumed responsibility for funding higher education in Wales on 1 April 1993.

Under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, the Council is responsible for the administration of funds made available by the Assembly in support of the provision of education, the undertaking of research by higher education institutions, and the provision of prescribed courses of higher education at further education institutions.

Under the Education Act 1994, the Council is responsible for accrediting providers of initial teaching training for school teachers and commissioning research to improve the standards of teachers and teacher training.



In addition to its funding responsibilities, the Council provides advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding needs, aspirations and concerns of the higher education sector in Wales.

2. Further Education Colleges

HEFCW directly funds some higher education provision within Further Education Colleges (FECs). Funding for their HE provision forms only a very small part of the income for FECs. The mainstay of financial support for these institutions is the Welsh Assembly Government. For this reason, the Council has never sought to moderate the funding outcome (by uplifting to GDP) for these institutions in terms of their higher education provision. This means that year-on-year funding for higher education provision in FECs can vary considerably as a consequence of their performance in terms of student numbers.