

Press release

Date: 27 November 2008

Title: HEFCW welcomes higher education review report

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales has welcomed the report on phase 1 of the Jones review published on 24 November by the Welsh Assembly Government and the statement by the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 25 November.

HEFCW endorsed the emphasis on the need for a fair, but better focused, student finance system in Wales, delivering support to those who need it most.

The body, which administers funds from the Welsh Assembly Government to Wales's higher education institutions, also welcomed the recognition of the need to invest in the quality of experience provided to all students, whether via excellence in facilities for learning and teaching for all or through financial support to individual students.

The report's firm view that investment in higher education is of benefit to the wider economy, society and culture of Wales as a whole was also one that that HEFCW confirms.

HEFCW's chief executive, Professor Philip Gummatt said: "the report's observation that 'no modern society exists which does not see a well-resourced

HE sector as pivotal to its prosperity and future' goes to the core of the argument for wise and timely investment in higher education.

"It is essential to the *One Wales* ambitions for the economy and society of Wales that we invest adequately in the skills, research and innovation potential of our universities now, in order to build for growth beyond the current economic difficulties. We therefore warmly welcome the Minister's intention, subject to consultation, to invest at least £30m more per year in renewing higher education in Wales."

Notes:

Contact for further information

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 2. The full report will be available on the Higher Education Funding Council for England's website: www.hefce.ac.uk/ under 'publications'.
- **The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales** (HEFCW) is an Assembly Government Sponsored Body responsible for administering funds made available by the Welsh Assembly Government in support of:
 - the provision of education in higher education institutions (HEIs);
 - the undertaking of research by HEIs; and
 - the provision of prescribed courses of higher education at further education institutions.HEFCW is also 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, HEFCW provides advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding needs, aspirations and concerns of the higher education sector in Wales.