

**To: Heads of higher education
institutions in Wales**

Reference: W06/35HE
Date: 14 August 2006
Response By: Information Only

ENERGY MANAGEMENT ADVANCED TARGETING AND MONITORING SYSTEM

In March 2005 the National Audit Office Wales published a report on Energy and Water Management in the Higher Education Sector in Wales. In November 2005 the recommendations in that report with the exception of one were endorsed by the Assembly's Audit Committee. Since that time HEFCW has worked with the sector and in partnership with the Carbon Trust to develop and implement practical measures to address those recommendations.

Two of the principal recommendations relate to the development of effective systems of targeting and monitoring within the HE sector, and the requirement for HEFCW to develop suitable indicators to monitor energy and water performance and to hold institutions to account. A further recommendation highlighted the need to develop a consistent approach to benchmarking energy and water performance across the sector, possibly drawing on the work currently being developed by the Higher Education Environmental Performance Initiative.

Earlier this year consultants undertook a review of existing systems of targeting and monitoring at each HEI and identified a number of improvements that could be made. Those reports were forwarded to your Director of Estates. The work undertaken also identified the potential for a consistent system of automated targeting and monitoring throughout the Welsh HE sector. This proposal was informed by current practice at Cardiff University, and the implementation of this technology at the former University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. A trial of this methodology has been developed at University of Wales Institute Cardiff and the results will be used to further refine and develop this project. In early July a seminar was arranged to provide further information as to how such a system could work and to seek the views and comments of estates and energy professionals.

I am now pleased to report that the Welsh Assembly Government has made specific funding available to develop this approach in the Welsh HE sector. The Head of Estates at HEFCW,

Chris Cowburn, will be contacting your Director of Estates shortly to further develop the project, assess costs, and to agree appropriate timescales and actions to take the project forward. A circular will be issued with full details of the funding, the actions required and associated timescales

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Gummert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PHILIP GUMMETT