

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

Reference: W06/41HE
Date: 9th October 2006
Response By: 13th November 2006
Further Information: Vikki Burge
(029) 2068 2218
vikki.burge@hefcw.ac.uk

DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME CONSULTATION

I attach for your comment a copy of the Disability Equality Scheme prepared by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

As the Council which funds higher education in universities and colleges in Wales, we recognise the huge benefits which can be gained from improving diversity in the education system and, in particular, in higher education. These are benefits both for the educational institutions themselves and also for the wider economy and society of Wales and beyond.

We welcome the opportunity afforded by the legislation to consider our policies, procedures and practices in detail from a disability equality perspective. We have involved disabled people in development of our scheme and understand that we must continue to engage disabled people. In addition to involving disabled people in the DES, we see this scheme very much as an evolving document and wish to involve all of our stakeholders through this consultation.

We will be establishing mechanisms to consult as widely as possible with interested groups and individuals, as well as with the institutions and providers that we fund, and our key partners. We welcome any comments you may have on this scheme, and particularly welcome responses that may help us to shape and develop our forthcoming DES Action Plan. Responses can be made by post or by emailing vikki.burge@hefcw.ac.uk by Monday 13th November 2006.

Yours sincerely



PHILIP GUMMETT