

25 April 2003

Lorraine Beard  
Enterprise Insight Cymru  
Po Box 65  
Pontypridd  
CF38 1YA

Dear Lorraine

**Youth Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Strategy for Wales –  
young people 5 – 25**

Thank you for providing the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) with an opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the above strategy for Wales.

We have read the proposed strategy with interest, but we have decided not to respond to the specific questions posed in the consultation document as, by and large, they do not impact on the operations of the higher education sector in Wales. The emphasis is very much on entrepreneurship education in the school and post-16 (sub-HE) sectors.

This is a little surprising when one of the aims of the Entrepreneurship Action Plan is to *embed entrepreneurship education throughout the whole educational process* in Wales. The Assembly Government's ten year strategy for the Welsh HE sector, *Reaching Higher*, also underlines the centrality of Wales' institutions of higher education to the successful achievement of its objectives for the economic development of Wales.

Officers of the HEFCW would be happy to talk to you in more detail about the way in which the HE sector is able to contribute to the development of a more entrepreneurial outlook and culture amongst young people in Wales. It is a measure of the sector's success to date that the latest UK-wide survey of interactions between higher education and business indicates that in the academic year 2000/01 Wales accounted for 23.53% of the UK's graduate business start-ups – a high proportion of which would involve young people of 25 or under.

I hope this letter provides you with a flavour of the contribution that the HE sector is able to make towards a strategy for youth enterprise and entrepreneurship in Wales and urge you not to overlook the fact that entrepreneurship education continues as young people progress from the schools and post-16 sectors into higher education.

Yours sincerely