

To: Heads of Higher Education Institutions in Wales

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Further Information: Celia Hunt

Tel: 02920 682224

E-mail: celia.hunt@hefcw.ac.uk

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES 2004/05 – 2006/07

INTRODUCTION

This circular sets out the allocations to be made to institutions in 2006/07 to support Learning and Teaching (L & T) Strategies. It also provides individual institutional annual monitoring statements for reporting progress in 2005/06 and updating plans for 2006/07 in line with Circular W06/15HE *Strategic Planning and Related Requests 2006* (23 May 2006).

BACKGROUND

Circular W04/06HE, *Mechanisms for Supporting Excellent Teaching in Higher Education*, January 2004, set out the key features of the mechanisms for supporting excellent teaching to be adopted by the Council from 2004/05 onwards, namely:

- Institutional Learning and Teaching Strategies;
- Institutional Human Resource Strategies: teaching-led promotions;
- Thematic and Subject Enhancement.

We reported progress on these three aspects in Circular W05/19HE, focussing particularly on feedback and reporting on Learning and Teaching Strategies in 2005/06. Initial institutionally specific feedback on the strategies was attached.

Subsequently, the Higher Education Academy undertook a full analysis of institutional strategies. The outcome of this analysis was published in October 2005 and is available on the HEFCW web site (http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/Publications/2005_2979.htm). This analysis was also the subject of developmental visits by Academy officers to individual institutions and a well-attended sector-wide HE Academy seminar in December 2005.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY ALLOCATIONS 2006/07

Annex A sets out institutional allocations for 2006/07. The total sum available for Learning and Teaching strategies for 2006/07 is £845,345. This is allocated to institutions pro rata to total funded credits in 2006/07, including floor provision of £30k and a ceiling of £105k.

In addition, the Council has followed practice by HEFCE in funding institutional subscriptions to the Higher Education Academy. The allocations will be circulated next month, following confirmation by the Academy of the amounts for 2006/07. These allocations form the third and final year of the additional HEFCW funding to cover subscription payments. We will

monitor institutional engagement with the Academy in future Learning and Teaching Strategies.

2006 ANNUAL MONITORING STATEMENT

Circular W04/28HE, *Learning and Teaching Strategies for Higher Education in Wales*, April 2004, set out the guidelines for the submission of institutional strategies. It also outlined arrangements for the incremental introduction by the Council of an Annual Monitoring Statement (AMS).

The Annual Monitoring Statement template for 2006 was included in the strategic planning circular (W06/15 HE). We attach at **Annex B** an individual form for your institution, based on information provided on last year's AMS. The AMS form asks you to:

- Report progress against performance indicators for 2005/06;
- Provide revised performance indicators and expenditure plans for 2006/07 which will form the basis of next year's AMS;
- Complete a declaration of expenditure to confirm that the 2005/06 allocation has been fully spent and used for the purposes for which it was provided. This should be signed by the head of the institution.

Please return the signed AMS for 2006 to HEFCW by 10 November 2006, as set out in circular W06/15 HE.

We expect to pay the first tranche of funding for 2006/07 in September 2006 and the second tranche in March 2007, subject to receipt of satisfactory AMS returns. Funding for HE Academy subscriptions will be paid in full in September 2006. Institutions will be expected to monitor and update their strategies, including an account of expenditure, at the end of academic year 2006/07 through the AMS. Institutions will be required to confirm that the allocation has been utilised for the purposes for which it was intended.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

The 2006/07 allocations form the final year of HEFCW funding for current institutional learning and teaching strategies. Subject to Council confirmation, we will be inviting institutions to submit new strategies covering the period 2007/08 – 2009/10, for submission in Summer 2007. Guidance will be published in Spring 2007 and will be expected to draw attention to areas such as the developing HEFCW e-learning strategy; the HE Academy's programme of activities, including thematic and subject enhancement in Wales; the outcomes of QAA review; research-informed teaching; the impact of equalities and a diverse student population on learning and teaching; the implementation of the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales; the Bologna Agreement and related European developments; the outcomes of the Council's work on Foundation Degrees and work based learning; as well as Assembly policies and priorities such as *Learning Country 2: Delivering the Promise*. Following publication of the guidance, officers hope also to meet with relevant staff in each institution to discuss their developing strategies

Yours sincerely



PHILIP GUMMETT