

## News release

**Date:** 22 October 2019

**Title:** New bold ambitions for research and innovation in Wales

Universities and partners have joined forces with HEFCW to look at the research and innovation (R&I) landscape in Wales, and to outline how to deliver a thriving R&I community to meet the economic, social and civic needs in Wales and beyond.

The *Research and Innovation: Vision for Wales* sets out HEFCW's aim to secure Wales's position as a leading partner of research and innovation around the world, and to deliver economic and social prosperity for Wales.

The challenges and opportunities outlined in the *Vision* are built around the four thematic 'pillars' of Excellence, Place, Innovation and Collaboration – EPIC – and provide the context for realising HEFCW's key ambitions to:

- maintain and develop an **excellent research base** within Wales's universities.
- sustain a research base that supports innovation that **boosts productivity** in Welsh businesses.
- **deliver economic prosperity** and **social wellbeing** for the people of Wales.
- makes a vital contribution to the delivery of the UK Government's target of 2.4% of GDP expenditure on research and development.

Dr Alyson Thomas, Director of Policy and Funding in HEFCW, said: “Our Vision sees HEFCW developing a key role as an influencer, building a strong relationship with UK Research and Innovation, and other key funding and influencing bodies.

“We know that universities are great collaborators, nationally and internationally. We know that their research is impactful. We must capitalise on these strengths and on their distinctive areas of expertise. Our universities also need to be able to exploit investments by industrial partners.

“This Vision is HEFCW’s response to the recommendations of the Reid Review to raise the profile of Welsh R&I. But to truly deliver the Vision, the research base in universities needs to be appropriately resourced, as this helps to leverage funding from UKRI and other significant funders.

“The Vision recognises the wide range of challenges and opportunities that higher education providers have to exploit in order to achieve success, and we envisage that this success will be in the form of a higher education sector full of challenge, change and achievement.”

The *Vision* will be officially launched on **22 October** at a high-profile event in Cardiff, hosted by Professor Mark E Smith (chair of HEFCW’s Research Wales Committee and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton), with Professor Graeme Reid (author of the Review of Government Funded Research and Innovation in Wales and Chair of Science and Research Policy at University College London) delivering the keynote speech.

## **Programme**

1pm – Networking lunch

1.30pm – Welcome from the Chair

1.40pm – Keynote: Professor Graeme Reid

2.00pm – Presentations from:

- Dr Andrew Bourne, Associate Director, EPSRC
- Dr Magdalini Theodoridou, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow, Cardiff University
- James Davies, Executive Chair, Industry Wales

2.20pm – Panel discussion and questions

3.00pm – Coffee and networking

3.30pm – Close

## **Ends**

### **Contact for further information, and interviews with Professor Graeme Reid about the Vision**

Emma Rączka, Senior Communications Manager,  
[emma.raczka@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:emma.raczka@hefcw.ac.uk) 029 2085 9667

## **Notes**

### **The full document**

*Research and Innovation: The Vision for Wales*

### **The Research Wales Vision Statement**

Wales will maintain and develop an excellent research base within its universities. Our research base will support innovation that boosts productivity in Welsh businesses, delivering economic prosperity and social wellbeing for the people of Wales. It will make a vital contribution to Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan and the delivery of the UK Government's target of 2.4% of GDP expenditure on research and development.

The Welsh research base will be global in perspective. Our universities will continue to collaborate with each other and with research leaders across the UK and internationally. They will work to maintain and enhance partnerships with industry, with the public sector and third sector organisations.

Universities in Wales will have a strong sense of place. Research activity will respond to challenges specific to the local region, engaging local communities to create new solutions. Their work will be understood and appreciated by the local community and have relevance across Wales, the UK and the world.

## **Context**

Wales's new *Vision for Research and Innovation* builds on the recommendations of both the Review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements (Diamond Review) and the Review of Government Funded Research and Innovation in Wales (Reid Review).

## **About HEFCW**

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales – HEFCW – is the public body operating between Welsh Government and higher education providers. We regulate fee levels at higher education providers, ensure a framework is in place for assessing the quality of higher education and scrutinise the performance of universities and other designated providers. We also provide funding for higher education teaching and research, and apply our influence and expertise to help deliver Welsh Government priorities for higher education that also have wider societal and economic benefits.