

Memorandum of Understanding between the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Education Workforce Council (EWC)

Introduction

1. HEFCW is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. It is responsible for
 - funding higher education in Wales;
 - administering funds made available by the WG to support education and research at universities;
 - funding higher education courses at FEIs;
 - teaching by the Open University in Wales
 - funding of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Wales until September 2019.
2. With effect from 1 August 2015, HEFCW became responsible for certain aspects of the new regulatory system for higher education, under powers set out in the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015 ('the 2015 Act'). Under the terms of the 2015 Act, HEFCW undertakes the following:
 - Approves fee and access plans;
 - Monitors compliance with, and effectiveness of, fee and access plans;
 - Monitors compliance with fee limits;
 - Assesses, or makes arrangements for the assessment of, the quality of all provision delivered by or on behalf of regulated providers, even if this provision is not higher education (HE);
 - Takes action where the quality of education is, or is likely to become, inadequate.
3. ITE provision in Wales is currently accredited by HEFCW, under the Education Act 2005, but the EWC will take on the role of accrediting ITE programmes of study for commencement from 2019/20.
4. EWC was established under the Education (Wales) Act 2014. The principal aims of Council are to:
 - contribute to improving the standards of teaching and the quality of learning in Wales;
 - maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst teachers and others who support teaching and learning in Wales;
 - safeguard the interests of learners, parents and the public and maintain public trust and confidence in the education workforce.

Purpose and basis of the memorandum of understanding

5. This document is intended to provide a framework for working relationships between HEFCW and EWC ('the organisations'), to ensure efficient and effective cooperation. It commits them to working together in relation to their roles in ITE to:
 - ensure a smooth transition of responsibility of accreditation from HEFCW to EWC;
 - ensure that the statutory responsibilities and remits of each organisation are met;

- avoid duplication of effort on the part of either the organisations or providers;
 - identify and pursue activities that are of mutual interest, to address their responsibilities;
 - ensure that the respective expertise of the organisations involved is mutually recognised and used in partnership whenever appropriate;
 - take each other's interests into account, where appropriate, in policy and procedural development.
6. It establishes relationships for co-operation based on a common understanding of each organisation's business and statutory responsibilities, and a joint wish to make best use of finite resources for mutual benefit.
 7. The organisations recognise, and have regard for, their respective statutory roles and responsibilities as appropriate. They also recognise the independence of their remits and how the aims and objectives of the organisations complement one another.

Working in partnership

8. HEFCW and the EWC will identify the areas where their complementary roles and independent functions inter-relate regarding ITE, and agree strategies and actions within these to:
 - ensure clarity of expectations and requirements of regulated institutions;
 - minimise administrative burdens on regulated institutions;
 - enable each organisation to draw the other's attention to concerns that emerge regarding institutions covered by each other's statutory responsibilities and remits, including HEFCW's remit to monitor outgoing ITE students;
 - develop a shared understanding of the roles and contributions of each body in improving the quality of education and training;
 - facilitate the sharing of good practice in Wales where appropriate.
9. Each organisation will advise and, where appropriate, consult the other at an early stage of development of new or revised arrangements relating to the quality of HE provision in Wales.

Management, monitoring, reporting and confidentiality arrangements

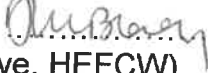
10. This Memorandum shall take effect from the date of signature by both organisations and continue until 2023, by which time HEFCW's ITE accreditation responsibilities should have been completed. The Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed annually and may be modified at any time by joint agreement of the organisations.
11. The organisations shall meet twice a year to discuss matters relating to this MoU.
12. Management of the Memorandum will be conducted by officers on behalf of HEFCW and EWC: at the date of signature as detailed below:


HEFCW	Dr Cliona O'Neill	029 2068 2222	cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk
EWC	Mark Isherwood	029 2046 0099	mark.isherwood@ewc.wales

13. The named contacts shall agree detailed arrangements for regular communication and exchange of information between the HEFCW and EWC, which shall include annual review meetings.
14. The arrangements detailed in this Memorandum will be monitored by the named contacts. Each contact will be responsible for notifying the organisation of which they are an officer of any concerns. Such concerns may lead to the termination of this Memorandum.
15. Each organisation will observe confidentiality as required in relation to shared information which is not in the public domain.

Legal effect of the memorandum of understanding

16. It is recognised and accepted that this Memorandum does not create any rights, liabilities or obligations which would have binding effect in law.

Signed..........
 (Chief Executive, HEFCW)
 Dated.....13.6.19.....

Signed:..........
 (Chief Executive, the Education Workforce Council.)
 Dated.....17/6/19.....