

**Y PWLLGOR ADDYSG A DYSGU
GYDOL OES**



**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG
LEARNING COMMITTEE**

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

Ms Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Education and Lifelong
Learning

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

July 2001

Dear Jane

BUDGET AND CORPORATE PLANNING ROUND (BPR) 2001-2002

I refer to the commissioning paper issued by the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities in May for the 2001-02 budget planning round and also to subsequent consideration of this matter by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee. I am writing, in accordance with Standing Order 9.8(ii), to convey the Committee's budget priorities. These are as follows, in no particular order:

- The Committee considers that there is a need for parity of funding, in terms of the unit of resource, between the higher education (HE) sectors in England and Wales and considers additional resources should be directed towards achieving this objective. The HE sector in Wales is facing great, competitive pressure within the UK and internationally.
- The Committee welcomes the report recently published by Investigation Group into Student Hardship and Funding in Wales and supports the recommendation therein regarding the Learner Maintenance Bursary (LMB). Furthermore, the Committee supports the Group's request that the LMB should be financed from additional monies and should not divert funds from other areas of education and training.
- Resources should be allocated for implementing the recommendations in the Committee's report: "Laying the Foundation: Early Years Provision for

Three Year Olds” – submitted to you in March this year.

- Resources should be allocated for implementing the recommendations in the Committee’s report, “Information and Communication Technology in Education” – also submitted in March this year.
- Resources should be allocated to support the professional development of teachers.
- Resources should be allocated to support staff training and development for SEN therapists.
- Resources should be allocated to redressing the relative disparity in salaries and terms and conditions between further education college lecturers and schoolteachers. In addition to causing difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff in the FE sector, this disparity if unresolved will cast a shadow over the collaboration between FE colleges and secondary schools - necessitated by the new arrangements for post 16 education and training.
- Whilst acknowledging that this falls within the budget of the Minister for the Environment, the Committee wishes to register its support for the ‘Safe Routes to School’ initiative and urges that it should be adequately funded. The Committee welcomes the twin benefits of safety and healthy exercise that are fostered by this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Cynog Dafis
Chair

CC: Ms Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities