



William Graham AM,
Chair of the Enterprise and
Business Committee,
The National Assembly for Wales

1 October 2014

Dear William,

In my letter of 1 July, I agreed to provide a copy of the final evaluation report on the Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP). I am pleased to attach a copy of this report which was published on the Welsh Government's website last week. The report can also be accessed on the Welsh Government website: <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/evaluation-further-mathematics-support-programme-pilot/?lang=en>.

The findings of this evaluation report are really encouraging, showing year-on-year increases in the number of learners in the pilot area studying further mathematics at both AS and A level. There has also been a steady increase in the numbers from the pilot area enrolling on mathematics and mathematics-related course at university. Some key findings from the report are bulleted below.

Data from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record and Welsh Examinations Database on examination entries showed a sharp rise in A2 level entries since the beginning of the pilot, e.g. a four-fold increase between 2010 and 2011.

Between 2010 and 2013, passes at the highest levels (A*A) in the pilot area increased more than four-fold and in the rest of Wales by more than half.

More schools and colleges in Wales offering further mathematics, either individually, or in collaboration. In the pilot area, almost all sixth forms and Further Education colleges were offering further mathematics to their students.

The Evaluation of the Further Mathematics Support Programme also makes a series of recommendations which my officials will be considering.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills