

CIRCULAR

2015/16 Welsh Medium Targets

Date: 19 September 2014

Reference: 14/01

To: Heads of Welsh Higher Education Institutions; The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol Advisory Group; Welsh-medium Provision Co-ordinators in the institutions; Heads of Welsh Further Education institutions; and Branch Officers.

Respond by: 10 October 2014

Contact: Dafydd Trystan
d.trystan@colegcymraeg.ac.uk

This document is also available on the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol website
<http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/publications/circulars/>

Background

1. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) corporate strategy, as approved by the Welsh Government, includes targets regarding the number of students studying through the medium of Welsh in higher education institutions by 2015/16.¹ These are targets for the higher education sector in Wales.
2. For 2015/16, a target has been set of 5,600 students studying at least 5 credits through the medium of Welsh, and 3,030 students studying at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh.
3. HEFCW uses these targets as part of the annual Fee Planning process, and monitors progress year on year.
4. Recently HEFCW has distributed 2012/13 data for each institution. The data identifies the number of students studying through the medium of Welsh and the number of credits they study, by subject, level (undergraduate/postgraduate) and method of study (full-time/part-time). The data also identifies the students' linguistic status by subject, dividing the students into three groups – those who speak Welsh fluently, those who speak Welsh but not fluently, and those who do not speak Welsh.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the Welsh medium targets

5. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is committed to supporting universities to ensure that the targets set are met by 2015/16.
6. The purpose of this circular is to collect information and responses from universities to assess progress against the target thus far. As part of the process of working

¹ These targets are included within HEFCW's Corporate Strategy:
http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/corporate_documents/Corporate%20Strategy%202013-14-2015-16.pdf

towards meeting the targets, the circular asks for an analysis of the situation by subject within institutions in the latest data year, i.e. 2012/13. The circular also seeks the institutions' response to a draft model outlining how the targets can be met by 2015/16.

2012/13

7. The table below gives the distribution by university of the numbers studying through the medium of Welsh. The first column identifies the number of students who studied at least 5 credits through the medium of Welsh in 2012/13. The second column identifies the number who studied at least 40 credits i.e. at least a third of a regular undergraduate course:

Table 1: Studying through the medium of Welsh 2012/13

Institution	At least 5 credits	At least 40 credits
South Wales	251	124
Aberystwyth	517	358
Bangor	1,244	718
Cardiff	215	166
Wales, Trinity Saint David	2,019	717
Swansea	222	86
Cardiff Metropolitan	195	179
Glyndŵr	148	1
Open	52	0
Total	4,863	2,342

8. The Coleg considers that an appropriate increase was seen across Wales during 2012/13, but the pattern of growth has been uneven across institutions and even within institutions and subjects. The data provided to the institutions by HEFCW gives

a detailed account of the situation by subject, and so provides a strong analytical basis for the institutions to consider the progress made.

9. Every institution is therefore asked to prepare a short commentary on their progress during 2012/13, commenting on every subject area in which there is Welsh medium provision. Institutions are invited to consider investment by the **Coleg** and the **University** in those areas, and analyse whether their progress in each area

- meets expectations
- is higher than expectations
- is lower than expected

In those areas where the increase in numbers has been lower than expected, institutions are invited to comment on the means by which they intend to improve the situation.

10. If the institutions would like advice or further guidance regarding the requested commentary, they should contact the Coleg Registrar, Dr Dafydd Trystan: d.trystan@colegcymraeg.ac.uk

2015/16 Targets

11. The Coleg has analysed the progress made up to 2012/13, and the target set for Wales' higher education institutions by 2015/16. In undertaking this analysis, the Coleg considered the Coleg Cymraeg's investment in various areas, as well as the number of Welsh speakers who already study in institutions in Wales.

12. Based on this analysis, the following model is proposed for reaching the targets by 2015/16:

Table 2: 2015/16 Targets

Institutions	At least 5 credits	At least 40 credits
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South Wales	334	165
Aberystwyth	626	476
Bangor	1,400	956
Cardiff	327	242
Wales, Trinity Saint David	2,025	725
Swansea	295	149
Cardiff Metropolitan	260	238
Glyndŵr	148	20
Open	125	10
Higher Education within Further Education	60	49
Total	5,600	3,030

13. Universities are asked to give careful consideration to the targets proposed here. The Coleg considers that the targets identified above are reasonable and proportionate with the Coleg's investment in the institutions. These targets, together, will meet the targets (5,600 and 3,030) set by HEFCW and the Welsh Government.

14. Institutions are invited individually to state whether they consider these targets to be appropriate, too ambitious, or not ambitious enough. If an institution suggests that a target should be changed, a full explanation should be given for such a change. The Coleg will need to give careful consideration to every response from institutions in order to ensure that there is a plan in place to meet the targets as a whole, and that the Coleg's investment is used in the most strategic way possible to ensure progress is made.

Response

15. The institutions are asked to respond by 10 October, 2014, sending their comments to Dr Dafydd Trystan: d.trystan@colegcymraeg.ac.uk. The Coleg will give careful consideration to the report submitted, and will prepare a comprehensive analysis of

the responses for the Coleg's Academic Board, the Coleg's Board of Directors, and HEFCW. These reports will be prepared at a national level, and any matters involving individual subjects/schools will be discussed directly with the relevant university.