

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ90081

Andrew R.T. Davies  
MS Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
[AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales](mailto:AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales)

16 January 2024

Dear Andrew,

I promised to write with a substantive reply to the question you recently tabled:

Will the Minister confirm how many times they have met with representatives from Welsh universities in the last three months to discuss the work being done to safeguard freedom of religious expression for students? (WQ90081)

I regularly meet with representatives from Welsh universities to discuss a range of issues. Welsh universities are autonomous bodies - free and open academic discourse underpinned by the values of freedom is fundamental, and that freedom applies to universities to make their own decisions within the matters that fall within their own ambit.

Universities have a duty to ensure freedom of speech and academic freedom, but they must carry out their functions in full recognition of their obligations under their Public Sector Equality Duty.

In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales is in regular contact with universities to ensure the sector feels supported and is taking all possible steps to support staff and students.

Yours sincerely,

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.