

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ91761 & WQ91762

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peter Fox
MS for Monmouth
Peter.fox@senedd.wales

22 April 2024

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your written question WQ91783 regarding what financial arrangements are in place to allow students from Wales to access apprenticeship opportunities in England and WQ91762 regarding students who live in Wales but study in England supported in obtaining apprenticeship funding.

As a result of the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, apprenticeship eligibility rules across the UK changed in May 2017. Since then, the key determiner of apprentice eligibility has been the country where the participant works. For example, where the time spent working in Wales is more than 51%, they will be eligible for a Wales funded apprenticeship. Similar rules apply across the other nations. Where the apprentice is domiciled is immaterial. Prior to this, a reciprocal arrangement existed with UK Government whereby cross-border learners were funded by government at their nearest or most appropriate learning provider -with an acceptance from both the Wales and UK Governments that apprentices may move either way across the border. However, the introduction of the UK Government's apprenticeship levy and voucher-based system for accessing apprenticeship provision subsequently prevented Welsh (and Scottish) apprentices predominantly working in Wales from accessing provision in England. Welsh Government officials have recently been in dialogue with the UK Government to resolve this issue but, unfortunately, they are minded to apply funding rules rigidly. Therefore, at this time we cannot support apprentices who access provision in England.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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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.