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UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF | ATHROFA PRIFYSGOL CYMRU, CAERDYDD

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The Librarian  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff

Our ref: GLH/RDGW/JEP  
1 August, 2000

Dear Assembly Member

A recent meeting of the Chairmen of the Higher Education Institutions in Wales considered the investigation into the North East Wales Institute (NEWI) conducted earlier this year by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales. Members of the Group shared the concerns of the Council and the Academic Board of the University of Wales; these concerns were brought to your attention in a letter from Dr I E Williams, the Secretary to the Council, dated 21 March 2000. As will be recalled, these concerns centred on the way in which an anonymous allegation was dealt with by the Assembly and, in particular, the by-passing of an institution's internal procedures.

The Chairmen's Group requested that I write to all Assembly Members underlining the above concerns and seeking assurance that in future an institution's internal procedures will be exhausted before any involvement by the Assembly or its individual members.

As a further matter I have been asked to draw your attention to the invidious position in which the Chairman of NEWI has been placed with regard to the confidential status of the HEFCW Audit report on NEWI on the one hand and an Industrial Tribunal's order for disclosure of the report on the other.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the National Assembly's Librarian with a request that it be placed in the library for reference.

Yours sincerely



Gordon L Harry  
Chairman  
Chairmen of Higher Education Institutions in Wales

