

Higher Education Funding Council in Wales (HEFCW)

Higher Education is a devolved area, which means that most decisions are made about HE in Wales are taken by the Welsh Government. HEFCW is an intermediary body between the Welsh Government and the Higher Education Sector in Wales, including Cardiff University.

As stated on the HEFCW website, higher education (HE) in Wales is offered mainly through Wales' 8 universities, of which Cardiff University is one.

In this context: "Universities are charities, private bodies and **independent** of government. They receive their income from a number of sources, including student fees, through research projects and by generating business. They also receive a portion of their income from public funds. In HEFCW, we distribute some of these funds from the Welsh Government and act as an intermediary between the HE sector and the government."

See: https://www.hefcw.ac.uk/about_he_in_wales/about_higher_education_in_wales.aspx (last accessed 5.04.2017).

The Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability (2015) between HEFCW and Cardiff University lays down the terms and conditions for funding and identifies "recognising institutional **autonomy**" as one of its central guiding principles. This document provides evidence that University's in Wales are independent and governed by the head of the University institution. It states that this head is "first and foremost responsible for leadership of the academic affairs and executive management of the institution."

See:

https://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/publications/circulars/circulars_2015/W15%2031HE%20Memorandum%20of%20Assurance%20and%20Accountability.pdf (last accessed 7.04.2017).

Furthermore, the Higher Education Wales' Act (2015) places a **duty** on HEFCW to "**take into account the importance of protecting academic freedom**" of the university institution (**Duty 48**).

See page 24 of the Act:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/1/pdfs/anaw_20150001_en.pdf (last accessed 5.04.2017).