

## The Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act



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# Background

- HEFCW works when there's lots of universities and most of the funding comes from centre (with some "top up fees")
- Introduction of (similar to England) tuition fees and a "made in Wales" student maintenance package
- Concern re "articulation" and whole (tertiary) system links and synergies
- WG asks Ellen Hazelkorn to conduct a review of postcompulsory education and training (PCET) in Wales 2016.





# Hazelkorn review

- Hazelkorn identified a number of challenges in the Welsh PCET sector:
  - duplication of provision
  - unnecessary complexity
  - lack of joining up between different levels of education and training providers.
- Hazelkorn set out a case for changing the ways in which PCET is overseen in Wales, in order to meet the economic, environmental, and social challenges of the 21st century.
- Draft legislation (eventually) published but delayed due to be debated



#### Towards 2030

A framework for building a world-class post-compulsory education system for Wales

#### Final report

Review of the oversight of post-compulsory education in Wales with special reference to the future role and function of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

Professor Ellen Hazelkorn

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# Ten big things

- 1. Establishment of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER)
- 2. Welsh Government will be required to publish a statement for tertiary education, training and research in Wales.
- 3. Commission will have a duty to ensure facilities are funded and secured for further education and training of 16-18 year olds and adults, and approve outcome agreements.
- 4. Providers will need to register in order to be eligible for some forms of grant funding, as well as Welsh Government student support. Conditions relating to the quality of education, the governance and management of institutions, and their financial sustainability
- 5. Higher education providers designated for the higher amount of Welsh Government tuition fee support will be required to submit an Access and Opportunity Plan to the Commission for approval.
- 6. Commission will have a duty to monitor and promote improvement in the quality of tertiary education in registered and funded providers.
- 7. Act creates a definition for an approved Welsh apprenticeship.
- 8. Powers and duties of the Commission and other relevant bodies in relation to the sharing of data and information
- 9. Other bits n bobs





## **And #10**

 Commission will be required to publish a Learner Engagement Code, setting out the ways in which learners' interests should be represented in the governance and management of providers.



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# **Protecting students...**

11. Providers will have to develop and have approved a "Learner Protection Plan"

- But have student protection plans worked in England? And is the Bill as drafted too narrow?
- ("protecting the interests of persons undertaking a relevant course in the event of the course ceasing to be provided for any reason,
- ("and supporting a person who is undertaking a relevant course and who wishes to transfer to another course of tertiary education (whether that course is provided by, or on behalf of, the tertiary education provider or another person").

12. A condition relating to the effectiveness of the provider's arrangements for 10 supporting and promoting the welfare of its students and staff

- Mental health
- Harassment and sexual misconduct •
- Student suicide?





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# Equal opps...

The Commission must ensure that the ongoing registration conditions of each registered provider include conditions requiring the delivery of measurable outcomes to further each of the aims in subsection

- The aims are—
- (a) increasing participation in relevant tertiary education provided by, or on behalf of, the registered provider by persons who are members of under-represented groups;
- (b) retention of students who are members of under-represented groups to the end of courses of relevant tertiary education provided by, or on behalf of, the registered provider;
- (c) reduction of any gaps in attainment in relevant tertiary education provided by, or on behalf of, the registered provider between different groups of students specified in the conditions, where the differences arise from social, cultural, economic or organisational factors;
- (d) provision of support for students finishing courses of relevant tertiary education provided by, or on behalf of, the registered provider who are members of under represented groups to continue their tertiary education, find employment or start a business.



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# Students as partners

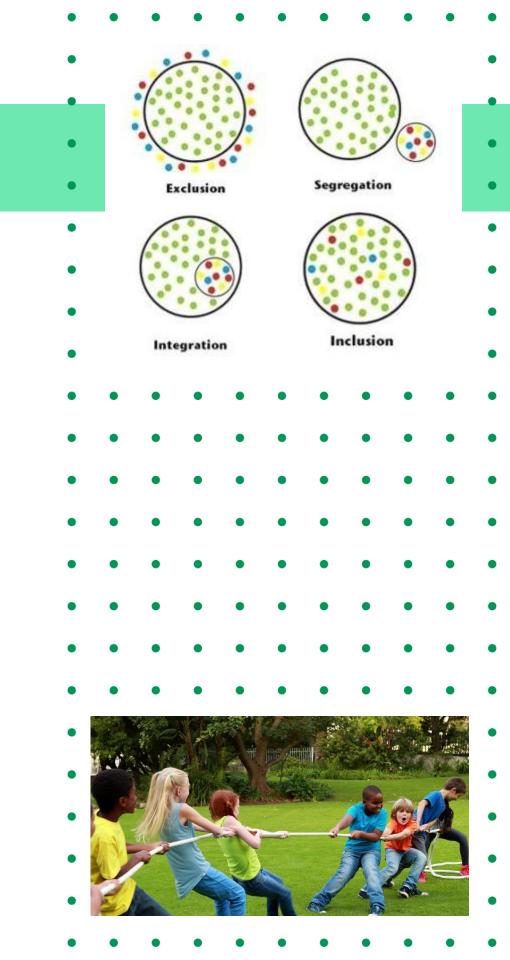
- Learner Engagement Code
  - how to ensure that the interests of learners are effectively represented in the making of relevant decisions by the relevant institution,
  - how to ensure that learners have the opportunity to participate in the making of relevant decisions by the relevant institution, and
  - how to ensure that learners have the opportunity to give their views to the relevant institution about the tertiary education they are receiving and on other matters that may be of concern or interest to them



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## What's next?





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