

17 February 2024

Buffy Williams MS
Chair,
Children, Young People and Education Committee,
Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN.

Dear Chair,

Children, Young People and Education Committee, 6 February 2025: Patents resulting from research carried out in Welsh universities

Thank you for inviting Medr to the Committee for our annual scrutiny session on 6 February. At the meeting, I agreed to write to the Committee on patents resulting from research carried out in Welsh universities.

Our proposed Strategic Plan includes a founding commitment to “*identify how we can use data to measure and demonstrate the impact of the research and innovation that we fund and review how we share our knowledge and learning within communities*”. This reflects the requirements placed on us in the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022 to monitor and report on the value for money of the research we fund.

In taking forward this commitment, we will be identifying a basket of measures which reflect all aspects of research and innovation undertaken by universities in Wales and the economic, social, cultural and environmental impact which they deliver. We will consider whether patents resulting from research carried out in Welsh universities should be part of that set of indicators, but would note that research of the type that leads to patents is only a small subset of the full range of research undertaken by our universities and reflects commercial potential rather than commercial success.

In addition, one purpose of Medr’s Research Wales Innovation Fund (RWIF) is to incentivise commercialisation activity in universities, with funding based on performance measures which include income generation from intellectual property, which is another way in which we ensure we give due regard to the importance of return on investment from our funding.

I hope the Committee find this additional information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Rydym yn croesawu 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 correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence in Welsh will be answered in Welsh, and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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James Owen
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