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Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff

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CALL FOR COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO CARDIFF UNIVERSITY COURSE CLOSURES AND THE CRISIS IN WELSH HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Annwyl Gadeirydd,

As the trade union representing academic staff at Cardiff University, we are writing to ask the Children, Young People and Education Committee to conduct an urgent inquiry into the funding crisis facing universities in Wales. Your committee will be acutely aware of Cardiff University's recently-announced [plans](#)¹ to cut 400 full-time academic jobs and close several departments and courses, including ancient history, modern languages and translation, music, nursing, and religion and theology. As a Union, we are deeply concerned about the impact that these cuts will have on staff, students, and educational provision at Wales' largest university, and the damage to Wales's reputation on the world stage.

An inquiry into this topic will provide committee members a valuable opportunity to scrutinise the Welsh Government on what steps it is taking to solve the financial difficulties facing universities across Wales. An inquiry could also be used to question Cardiff University's senior management team about their plans to impose major cuts to jobs and courses. This includes questions about the rationale behind the cuts at a time when the resources available to the University have grown significantly in the last twelve months. The University's recently-released annual report and financial statement, for example, [reveals](#)² that in one single year (2023-24) the University's cash or cash equivalent reserves *increased* by £69.2m.

We believe that an inquiry by the committee into both Cardiff University's unnecessary and devastating cuts and Welsh higher education funding policy more generally is urgently needed. Such scrutiny would contribute to a more informed and evidence-based investigation into the mounting problems facing the HE sector in Wales, as well as a possible solution to the funding crisis that continues to loom large over Welsh higher education.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Undeb Prifysgol a Choleg Cymru | University and College Union Wales

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k5n0k101lo>

² https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/2894974/CU_AnnualReport2024_Final.pdf