Kirsty Williams AC/AM Y Gweinidog Addysg Minister for Education Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-884 Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07639/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

11 December 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

P-05-884 Amendment to Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018 to include UK institutions with operations overseas

Thank you for your letter of 2 December regarding a petition made to the National Assembly for Wales.

In my previous correspondence on this issue, I advised that I was not minded to amend the general regulatory requirements regarding the location of provision but would ask my officials to review the situation.

My officials are actively reviewing the policy position on this issue but, as it currently stands, the position in the regulations remains unchanged and is likely to remain so until at least the 2021/22 academic year. The statutory student support system in Wales is designed to provide support to eligible students who undertake a designated higher education course in the UK. At least half of the teaching and supervision which comprise the course must be provided in the UK.

I would like to reiterate my support of overseas study. You will be aware that I have made funding available to establish the Global Wales Discover programme (run by the British Council), which provides funding short-term mobility opportunities for Welsh undergraduate students to work, study or volunteer in another country.

I trust the above is helpful.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre: 0300 0604400

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

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Williams AC/AM Y Gweinidog Addysg Minister for Education