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**REVIEW OF UK HEALTH RESEARCH:  
RESPONSE FROM HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL FOR WALES**

I am writing on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) to respond to the consultation on the review of UK health research.

Many of the issues raised in the consultation paper lie outside the Council's remit, and we will leave others to comment on these. We do, however, wish to respond to the final question (Q 12) which is of central importance to Wales.

We understand why, from the point of view of health research in England, the establishment of a unified fund may be felt to be desirable. However, it would be unacceptable if any new fund were to operate to the detriment of researchers in other parts of the UK by restricting access to funding currently and historically available to them. As noted in question 12, NHS R&D funding has been devolved to the constituent countries of the UK, whereas MRC funding operates on a UK-wide basis. Speaking only for Wales, it is absolutely critical that, whatever new arrangements are put in place, researchers in higher education institutions in Wales should continue to have full access to the future equivalent of MRC funding, regardless of the governance model that is adopted.



PHIL GUMMETT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cc Ms Judith Cole, Welsh Assembly Government  
Ms Sue Denman, Wales Office of Research and Development