

EXPLANATORY NOTES

HIGHER EDUCATION (WALES) ACT 2015

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY OF THE ACT

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS OF THE ACT

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

Section 1 - Overview of the Act

PART 2 – FEE AND ACCESS PLANS

Section 2 – Application by institution for HEFCW’s approval of fee and access plan

Section 3 – Designation of other providers of higher education

Section 4 – Period to which plan relates

Section 5 – Fee limit

Section 6 – Promotion of equality of opportunity and higher education

Section 7 – Approval of fee and access plan

Section 8 – Publication of approved plan

Section 9 – Variation of approved plan

Section 10 – Limits on student fees

Section 11 – Compliance and reimbursement directions

Section 12 – Supplementary provision about compliance and reimbursement directions

Section 13 – Directions in respect of failure to comply with general requirements of approved plan

Section 14 – Validity of contracts

Section 15 – HEFCW’s duty to monitor and evaluate compliance and effectiveness

These notes refer to the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015 (c.1)

Section 16 – Monitoring and evaluating compliance and effectiveness: duty to co-operate

PART 3 – QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Section 17 – Assessment of quality of education

Sections 18 to 20 – Education of inadequate quality

Section 21 – Quality assessment etc: duty to co-operate

Section 22 – Quality assessment etc: powers of entry and inspection

Section 23 – Guidance about matters relevant to quality

Section 24 – Guidance about criteria for assessing quality

Section 25 – Committee to advise HEFCW about exercise of quality assessment functions

Section 26 – Application of Part 3 where institution ceases to have approved plan

PART 4 – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF REGULATED INSTITUTIONS

Section 27 – HEFCW’s duty to prepare and publish a Code

Sections 28 – Procedure for approval of Code by Welsh Ministers

Section 29 – Procedure if draft Code not approved by Welsh Ministers

Section 30 – Procedure if draft Code approved by Welsh Ministers

Section 31 – Monitoring compliance with the Code

Sections 32 to 34 – Failure to comply with Code

Section 35 – Financial management: duty to co-operate

Section 36 - Financial management: powers of entry and inspection

PART 5 – FEE AND ACCESS PLANS: WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL ETC

Section 37 – Notice of refusal to approve new fee and access plan

Section 38– Duty to withdraw approval

Section 39 - Power to withdraw approval

Section 40 – Publication etc. of notice under Part 5

PART 6 – NOTICES AND DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY HEFCW

Section 41 – Application of sections 42 to 44

Section 42 – Proposed notices and directions: requirement to give warning notice

Section 43 – Information to be given with notices and directions

These notes refer to the Higher Education (Wales) Act 2015 (c.1)

Section 44– Review of notices and directions

Section 45 – Directions: compliance and enforcement

Section 46 – Directions: general

PART 7 – SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION ABOUT FUNCTIONS OF HEFCW

Section 47 – Compatibility with charity law and governing documents of institutions

Section 48 – Duty to take into account importance of protecting academic freedom

Section 49 – Duty to take Welsh Ministers’ guidance into account

Section 50 – Annual reports

Section 51 – Special reports

Section 52– Statement in respect of intervention functions

Section 53 – Information and advice to be given by HEFCW to Welsh Ministers

Section 54 – Other information and advice

PART 8 – GENERAL

Sections 55 and 56 – Regulations and Directions

Section 58 – Consequential and transitional provision etc

Schedule

Section 59 – Commencement

Section 60 – Short title etc

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES