



**Engineering Professors' Council response to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) consultation on revision of external quality assurance review requirements (December 2021)**

The Engineering Professors' Council (EPC) is the representative voice of over 8,000 academic staff working at all levels in UK Engineering departments, schools and faculties. Our responses are offered on behalf of the Welsh Engineering academic community, who we invited to consider the consultation through our monthly *Bulletin* and member mailings. The responses below briefly summarise the information we collected.

1. Do you agree with the proposed changes to the institutional review requirements for Wales? Please explain your response.

Yes, the changes are excellent steps forward to make the whole process very efficient and fair.

2. Are there any other changes which you think would be beneficial to maximise the usefulness of reviews to institutions, and/or to provide assurance to HEFCW and/or governing bodies?

To appoint more than one international reviewer.

3. Are there any unintended consequences of the proposed changes to the external quality assurance review requirements?

EPC members did not identify any unintended consequences of the proposed changes to the external quality assurance review requirements.

4. Do you have any comments on the proposed amendments to the Quality Assessment Framework? Are there any other areas of the Framework which you think need to be amended?

No comments.

5. What effect (if any), positive or adverse, will these proposals have on:
  - opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language; and
  - treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

EPC members did not identify any adverse effect. We are aware that there are native speakers of Welsh language which can act as international reviewers.

6. How could the policy be changed so that the policy decision would have positive effects, or increased positive effects, on:
  - opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language; and
  - treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

To appoint at least two international reviewers, not just one. Of the two, one could be a native speaker of Welsh language.

*EPC Executive  
December 2021*