

# **REQUEST FOR QUOTATION: Demonstrating the Social Value of FE colleges in Wales**

**May 2023**

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## 1. Company Information

<b>Company Name</b>	Colleges Wales / Colegau Cymru Limited (Parent company of Fforwm Services Limited)
<b>Company Number</b>	2832103
<b>Charity Number</b>	1060182
<b>Subsidiary Company</b>	Fforwm Services Limited
<b>Subsidiary Company Number</b>	3066192
<b>VAT Number</b>	655 9801 02
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## 2. Background

ColegauCymru is an education charity which promotes the public benefit of further education in Wales. We believe that all learners have the right to world-class education, delivered in a safe, diverse and inclusive setting and within a sector which supports the wider community, employers and the economy. We also convene the Further Education Principals' Forum, which represents the interests of further education (FE) providers.

We undertake research and policy development and provide practical support to the FE community. Working closely with Welsh Government, their agencies, and other stakeholders, we help shape policies affecting the FE sector, their learners and staff. ColegauCymru is the first point of contact for further education in Wales.

Fforwm Services Limited is a private limited company and wholly owned subsidiary of CollegesWales. It is a platform through which commercial, income-generating activity

is channelled, and which allows us to facilitate sector-specific events, training and conferences.

### 3. Rationale

- 3.1 With grant funding from Welsh Government, ColegauCymru is leading a research project to establish the social value of FE in Wales. As anchor institutions, colleges make a significant contribution to their local economies and communities. This research aims to develop a current understanding of their economic impact and social value of the college sector.
- 3.2 In 2017, ColegauCymru published a report [Demonstrating the Economic Value of FE Colleges in Wales](#). The results of the study showed that FE colleges in Wales create significant positive benefits to their main stakeholder groups: learners, society, taxpayers, and the local business community. The report used a two-pronged approach that involved an investment analysis and a regional economic impact analysis, to calculate the benefits to each of these groups.
- 3.3 The social, economic and political landscape has shifted significantly since 2017, and this new dataset would enable ColegauCymru to evidence the sector's impact, and to articulate its benefits to learners, to society; and articulate the impact of staff and college expenditure; the impact of added workforce skills in industries beyond FE; the impact of learner experience; and the impact on the local business community.
- 3.4 Colleges in Wales have long been rooted in their local communities, and proudly work with people, public services, and industry. Colleges have a deep and wide reach, through their campuses, their workforce, procurement capacity, with local communities, skills development, industry contacts, and leadership roles which made a significant impact in their local areas and beyond.

### 4. The Research

- 4.1 The purpose of the research is to highlight the strategic drivers in the FE sector, including the role of colleges as anchor institutions, their civic mission, and their role in lifelong learning.
- 4.2 ColegauCymru invites proposals from organisations to conduct quantitative and qualitative research on:

Quantitative:

- i. Investment analysis – collating data from FE colleges (via ColegauCymru strategic networks) and public data sources (e.g. ONS, Stats Wales etc) and providing analysis on the benefits to learners, society and the taxpayer, including:

- data collection and analysis of the funds invested by learners and the public purse (for example, using an input-output model);
  - the value to which earning potential for learners is increased (projecting learners' earnings increase into the future over the course of a career period, for example, by using human capital earnings function by Jacob Mincer);
  - an investment and return analysis on the benefits of FE;
  - the benefits to taxpayers (analysis of the benefits and costs to taxpayers – given that learners earn more over their lifetime, they make higher income tax payments and National Insurance contributions; and as learners become more employable, demand for social security payments decreases; and employers increase their output and make more purchases for supplies and services, they benefit the Exchequer through higher corporation tax and VAT payments);
  - The data sources and requirements are to be discussed at the inception meeting. Bids will be tested based on proposed methodology, building on the previous report published.
- ii. Regional economic impact analysis – collating data and providing analysis on the impact of staff and college expenditure including:
- staff costs, and goods and services;
  - the impact of learner expenditure including buying books, supplies, transport, sporting events, rent etc;
  - the impact of added workforce skills in industries beyond FE;
  - a calculation of the total impact on the local business community.

Qualitative:

- 4.3 The quantitative data piece should be complemented by a qualitative analysis, using stakeholder interviews to provide greater understanding of the sector's social value. The qualitative data should be gathered through interviews with ColegauCymru members, and approximately ten external stakeholder interviews (for example, with employer representative bodies).

## 5. Requirements

- 5.1 The supplier is expected to undertake research that will fulfil the brief in Section 4. We require the final report to be a bilingual MS Word document, 1 copy in Welsh and 1 in English to comply with the ColegauCymru Welsh Language Scheme (the translation costs are to be met by the supplier). We adopt the principle in the conduct of our public business in Wales that we will not treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language. A copy of our Scheme is [available on our website](#), and it is expected that this work is carried out in line with that scheme.
- 5.2 The work is expected to start on 12 June 2023 with a draft report to be completed by 30 September 2023 and the final report by 31 October 2023.

- 5.3 The expected methodology will include a mixed methods approach utilising existing quantitative data sets (those published and those held by individual institutions) and qualitative data (through new semi-structured interviews with (current, past and prospective leaders from the sector). The latter will add richer context to the data sets.
- 5.4 The proposed dates for monitoring and project updates are detailed below and will be confirmed at the project initiation meeting:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Project Initiation	12 June 2023
Draft Final Report Meeting	30 September 2023
Final Report Meeting	31 October 2023

- 5.5 Suppliers are expected, as part of their application, to declare any relationship or association with a person or persons who are a significant employee, elected or nominated, in the institutions falling within the scope of the research.
- 5.6 The supplier is expected to complete a pricing schedule which is inclusive of VAT. The maximum budget available for this work is £50,000 including any applicable VAT.

## **6. Use of Findings**

- 6.1 Once the research has been completed, the document will be used to provide feedback to the ColegauCymru Board and the Principals' Forum.
- 6.2 The report will be published on the ColegauCymru website and shared with a range of external stakeholders, including Welsh Government.
- 6.3 The research should be in a format that could be published as a standalone report document.

## 7. Timescale

7.1 The timescales are as follows:

Date	Activity
17 May 2023	ColegauCymru to provide an invitation to quote to selected organisations and share on its website
2 June 2023	Proposals submitted to ColegauCymru / Fforwm Services Limited
9 June 2023	Successful organisation notified and contracting is undertaken
12 June 2023	Start of project
30 September 2023	Presentation of draft report and recommendations to ColegauCymru
31 October 2023	Final report shared with ColegauCymru

Proposals should be submitted by email to [Rachel.Cable@ColegauCymru.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.Cable@ColegauCymru.ac.uk) by **5.00pm** on **2 June 2023**. The Project Team welcomes queries regarding this quotation up to 1 June 2023. No correspondence or queries will be addressed during the period in which a contract decision is being made.