

Mr Martin Mansfield  
General Secretary  
Wales TUC

Email Only

28 February 2013

Dear Martin

**Re: Draft submission – Commission on devolution in Wales**

Thank you for giving us the time to consult with our activists before submitting our views on the draft submission.

In relation to the questions posed we offer the following comments.

**1. Paragraphs 12 and 13 relating to teacher's pay and conditions;**

UCU would support both statements. However, we believe that it might be necessary to consider setting up Welsh National bargaining arrangements to cover education if the UK government continues to undermine the STRB and the maintenance of UK wide school teachers pay scales.

This is important as the present government in Wales has committed to maintain pay parity with those same UK pay scales. Their loss could have a significant impact on FE pay scales if Wales were not to establish national Welsh pay scales for teaching staff and the necessary statutory regulation to maintain it.

**2. Is there any support for the transfer of non-benefit DWP responsibilities such as Job Centre Plus?;**

UCU will happily support the views of the unions working in DWP.

**3. Is there support for the transfer of responsibility for large scale energy projects?;**

UCU would support the transfer of responsibility for large scale energy projects as we believe the commitment to environmental issues from the present Welsh

Government will have a significant impact on the research base in our universities and on jobs which growth in this area would generate.

**4. Is there support for the transfer of responsibility of policing?;**

UCU do not have a policy in this area.

**5. Are there any other areas where affiliates would like to see responsibilities devolved from the UK Government (for example, broadcasting?);**

No

**6. Are members content with paragraph 16 which calls for a separate legal jurisdiction for Wales?;**

UCU do not have a policy in this area

**7. Paragraph 23 relating to the Co-op Party Report *Rail Cymru: A People's Railway for Wales*;**

UCU are keen to progress the green agenda and I imagine we would support moves to have a mutual 'Rail Cymru.'

**8. Views on paragraphs 22 to 28 generally which call for the devolution of rail.**

UCU would welcome any developments which made travelling and access around Wales easier.

**9. Any other examples of policy area currently encumbered by the current division of responsibilities or operation of the devolution settlement.**

UCU are still very concerned over the amount of control Treasury seem to be able to exercise and the impact it has on the development of policy in Wales, for example, de-regulation and the current F&HE White paper proposals.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Phelan  
Wales Official