

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

William Graham AM
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Dear William,

Enterprise and Business Committee – 21 January 2015

During my attendance at the Enterprise and Business Committee on the 21 January, I offered to write to the Committee to provide further clarification on three questions raised during the meeting.

European Globalisation Fund

We have made representations to the UK Government regarding making an application for the European globalisation adjustment fund with regard to Murco oil refinery. The decision is ultimately a matter for the UK Government as Member State, however, our understanding is that they do not intend to make an application.

Structural Funds can of course play their part in helping to address the disappointing news about MURCO. As well as supporting the broader economic development of the region they can also be used to support those seeking new employment opportunities, including through up skilling and retraining schemes and business start-up support.

Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP)

As outlined at the meeting on the 21 January, the implications of the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) have been discussed at the Joint Ministerial Committee on Europe which I attend. At the December 2014 meeting I expressed the view to the Foreign Secretary and other attending Ministers that the final Treaty for the TTIP should include an explicit reference that it would have no impact on the NHS in any part of the UK.

In relation to this I attach for your information a recent letter from the EU Trade Commissioner to Lord Livingston, which aims to correct some of the misconceptions about TTIP and the NHS in the UK.

Social care sector – Opportunities under ESF and Horizon 2020

My evidence paper for the meeting on the 21 January explained how skills interventions under our ESF programmes will deliver the skills required to support the growth of a modern, knowledge-based economy and to promote job creation. Investments will target areas of economic growth as identified by the Economic Prioritisation Framework and will be expected to respond to identified demand from employers.

My officials in WEFO would be happy to discuss with interested parties how proposals for skills development programmes focused on the independent social care sector could contribute to achieving these aims. I would also like to highlight that, in recognition of the proven benefits of high quality childcare in enhancing child developmental outcomes, we have specifically allocated nearly £10 million of ESF within our Youth Employment and Attainment Priority to upskilling the Early Years and Childcare workforce.

There are also opportunities under Horizon 2020 for topics related to Health and Social Care in terms of research and innovation. These opportunities are open to any established Health and Social Care body in Wales that is willing to develop international collaborations and submit proposals to the relevant calls.

The Horizon 2020 Unit is actively supporting cross-departmental and inter-agency dialogue and is working closely with the Department for Health and Social Services on European funding opportunities. This includes promoting the opportunities and there is a workshop specifically aimed at the health care sector at the Horizon 2020 Annual Event on the 18 February in Cardiff, and I have issued invitations to all Committee members to attend this important and timely event.

Research Income

During the meeting I also advised that we expect around £130 million of additional research income as a direct result of our investment of £310m ERDF in research capacity. I would like to highlight that we actually expect closer to £230 million of additional research income.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Committee for your inquiries relating to Wales' involvement in the European Programmes, which have proved to be informative and comprehensive.

*Best wishes,
Jane*

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