

Julie James AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau a Thechnoleg
Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

William Graham AM
Chair
Enterprise and Business Committee

5 November 2015

Dear William,

At the Enterprise and Business Committee meeting on 21 October I agreed to write with information regarding the Global Wales initiative, and to provide detail of Welsh Government's involvement in the bidding process for funding from the European Social Funds (ESF).

Information on the Global Wales initiative will be provided following its launch on 11 November. Detail on our involvement in bidding for ESF is provided below.

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) led on 14 ESF-supported programmes (consisting of 23 individual ESF projects) under the 2007-2013 ESF Programmes. In comparison, DfES is planning to lead on 7 ESF-supported programmes (consisting of 13 individual projects) under the new 2014-2020 round. To date, 4 of these ESF-supported programmes have received approval from WEFO, with an additional 3 programmes in development.

This overall reduction in the number of projects aligns with DfES' vision to move to a more streamlined portfolio of programmes to deliver priorities under the 2014-2020 round. My officials are therefore working closely with WEFO and with organisations bringing forward ESF proposals to establish a more integrated portfolio of projects delivering against clearly identified, shared outcomes in line with the commitment made within the Skills Policy Statement to create a more simple and streamlined offer to individuals and businesses. DfES will move away from directly delivering activity in some specific areas, such as addressing the essential skills needs of those in employment; officials are currently working with regional stakeholders to develop a suite of regional skills programmes aimed at meeting this and other employer skills needs.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0300 0603300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0300 0604400
Correspondence: Julie.James@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Further information on the number of projects and financial data, should be available by request from WEFO.

Under the 2014-2020 ESF Programmes the following DfES programmes have been approved:

- ReAct III (one project only operating in West Wales and the Valleys)
- Apprenticeships (two projects covering West Wales and the Valleys and two projects covering East Wales)
- Jobs Growth Wales (two projects covering West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales)
- Traineeships (two projects covering West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales)

The DfES projects listed below are Business Planning Stage:

- Skills for Employment Wales (one project covering West Wales and the Valleys)
- Technical Assistance (Two projects covering West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales)
- Progress for Success (One project covering West Wales and the Valleys)

I will write to you again following the launch of the Global Wales initiative on 11 November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AC / AM

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