

Date: Friday 27 October 2000
Time: 10.00am to 12.25pm
Venue: North East Wales Institute of Higher Education, Wrexham

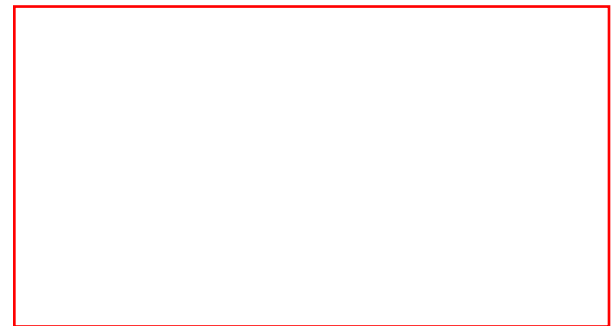
REPORT BACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - OBJECTIVE 1

1. At its meeting on 14 July the Committee agreed that the Chair should write to the First Secretary and the Chair of the Economic Development Committee drawing attention to the key points raised by participants at the Bangor meeting on Objective 1.
2. The Chair wrote to the First Secretary on 1 August and a copy of the letter is at annex 1.
3. The First Secretary replied on 11 August the text of which is at annex 2.
4. The Committee is invited to note the correspondence.

Committee Secretariat

October 2000

Annex 1



Rhodri Morgan AM MP
First Secretary
National Assembly for Wales

Pwyllgor Rhanbarth Gogledd Cymru
North Wales Regional Committee
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

1 August 2000

Dear Rhodri

Objective 1

At its June meeting, the North Wales Regional Committee heard from a range of national, regional and local organisations on the development of Objective 1 projects. The Committee agreed that it was important to pass on to you the concerns of those working on Objective 1 projects in North West Wales.

Key, common concerns were:

- the importance of the date for **retrospection** being 1st January 2000 in order to maximise the availability of funding;
- the need for **technical assistance** funding to be provided to local partnerships;
- **representation** on key Objective 1 structures in order to ensure that the area's needs are fully addressed. North West Wales is underrepresented on a number of important groups such as the Programme Monitoring Committee and the Regional Action Plan Partnerships;
- none of the three **WEFO offices** is conveniently located to provide support and assistance to North Wales. Several organisations felt that the management and development of all European structural programmes would be more effective if WEFO sited an office in North Wales.

The Committee feels it is vital to demonstrate to those who attend regional committee meetings that their contributions are worthwhile. I would be grateful, therefore, if you could reply to the points raised in this letter in time for consideration at the next Committee meeting on October 27th.

Yours sincerely

Ann Jones AM

Chair of the North Wales Regional Committee

Annex 2

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM PM

Ann Jones AM
Chair of the North Wales Regional Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

11 August 2000

Dear Ann

OBJECTIVE 1

Thank you for the feedback from the June meeting of the North Wales Regional Committee. Taking their concerns in order:

1. Retrospection . At 29 June meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee, it was agreed that 1 January 2000 would be date adopted. The same rules will be applied to technical assistance. I am sure you appreciate that the criteria for such a lengthy retrospection will have to be very tight.

2. Technical Assistance. Is available to the Lead Body in a partnership.

3. Representation. You will understand, I know, that if the numbers on a committee are to be kept manageable, it is a virtually impossible task to keep to the thirds principle whilst at the same time securing gender, linguistic and geographical balance. I am of course aware of the concern about the lack of North Wales representation on both the Programme Monitoring Committee and the Regional Partnership and it is likely that the PMC will be looking at options to address this issue very shortly, in particular to ensure full North Wales representation in the bodies making critical decisions on individual projects.

4. WEFO representation. John Clarke, the Chief Executive, has this high on his Agenda, and has recently appointed Katherine Himsworth to succeed Peter Fullerton as Head of Local Action Plans. Katherine has been working with the WDA, Northern Region in St Asaph and, as such, is well known to the North West Wales Partnership. She will not be based in Cardiff and is more than likely to have an office in North Wales, possibly in National Assembly premises in Colwyn Bay. As you know WEFO's Local Action Plans team also have bases in Cwm Cynon and Machynlleth.

I hope this information will be helpful when the Committee next meets on 27 October. However we are in a fast moving situation and regular updates are available on the WEFO website [www.wefo@wales.gov.uk }