

Economic Development Committee EDC-11-00(p.8)

Date: 22 June 2000
Venue: National Assembly for Wales , Committee Room 1
Title: Letters from the Chair to the Assembly Secretary

At the Committee meeting on 8 June, the Chair agreed to write to the Assembly Secretary to express members' concerns on recent events in First Line and for clarification on the recent reports of cuts in the WDA's North Wales budgets. Copies of the letters are attached at Annexes 1 and 2.

Annex 1

Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd

Economic Development Committee

Rhodri Morgan AM MP

First Secretary

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay

Caerdydd / Cardiff

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Dyddiad / Date 9 June 2000

Dear Rhodri,

FIRST LINE MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

At its meeting yesterday the Economic Development Committee expressed its concern and dismay at the closure of First Line and the loss of 2,000 jobs.

The Committee's concerns are:

- the circumstances surrounding this particular case: whether the company received any public assistance (advice, grants etc), what information was available to Assembly, WDA, TEC officials about the company's situation, what action is now possible, and what measures will be put in place to assist the staff who have lost their jobs;
- the impact this closure might have on the reputation of call centres generally and hence on recruitment;
- given Wales' recent success in attracting call centres, what can be done to assist these companies to provide good quality employment and become long-term contributors to the Welsh economy;
- what the strategy should be for the type of call centres Wales wishes to encourage and support in the future.

I would welcome your response to the above concerns. Could you also consider whether it might be feasible to ask the WDA to undertake an audit of call centres they have worked with to give some perspective to this issue. The Committee will wish to consider these issues at its next meeting.

Yours sincerely,

VAL FELD AM

Chair,

Economic Development Committee

Annex 2

Pwyllgor Datblygu Economaidd

Economic Development Committee

Rhodri Morgan AM MP

First Secretary

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay

National Assembly for Wales

Caerdydd / Cardiff

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

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Dyddiad / Date 13 June 2000

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Dear Rhodri,

WDA Budget - North Wales

At the Economic Development Committee last week the publicity which suggested there had been a cut in the WDA's budget for North Wales was raised. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with further information on whether the WDA budget for North Wales has indeed been cut, and if so, why.

Yours sincerely,

VAL FELD AM

Chair,

Economic Development Committee