



Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru
Secretary of State for Wales

Swyddfa Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru
Tŷ Gwydir
Whitehall
Llundain SW1A 2NP

Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan MP

Tel: 020 7270 0538
Ffon: 020 7270 0538

Fax: 020 7270 0568
Ffacs: 020 7270 0568

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Thank you for your letter of 2nd July 2010 concerning the European and External Affairs Committee's Second Report of the Inquiry into the Future of Cohesion Policy.

I read your report with great interest and agree that it raises a number of issues for Wales.

As you will know, the coalition Government's position on the EU budget post 2013 is still being considered. Once this has been finalised, I agree that it would be beneficial for your Committee to receive evidence on this. I will therefore suggest that a ministerial colleague from either the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills or the Treasury provides evidence once the UK position is ready. As lead departments they will be in a better position to provide the committee with the detailed information that you require.

I am happy to discuss this with Ministerial colleagues to arrange their attendance at the committee should you wish although I appreciate that you may like to formally invite them yourself to give evidence.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA