

Concise Minutes – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee room 3 – Senedd
and video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Thursday, 30 November
2023

Meeting time: 09.30 – 14.00

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13541>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Paul Davies MS (Chair) Luke Fletcher MS Vikki Howells MS Samuel Kurtz MS Mike Hedges MS (In place of Buffy Williams MS)
Witnesses:	Harriet Barnes, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales Charlotte Brumpton-Childs, GMB Professor Pete Burnap, Wales Cyber Innovation Hub Dean Cook, Innovate UK Lewis Dean, Wales Innovation Network Alasdair McDiarmid, Community Union Peter Hughes, UNITE Wales Professor Justin Lewis, Media Cymru



	<p>Dan Shah, UK Research and Innovation</p> <p>Andy Silcox, Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre Cymru</p> <p>Professor Roger Whitaker, Universities Wales</p> <p>Amanda Wilkinson, Director, Universities Wales, Universities Wales</p>
Committee Staff:	<p>Lara Date, Clerk</p> <p>Evan Jones, Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Ceri Thomas, Committee Support Officer</p> <p>Sara Moran, Researcher</p> <p>Lucy Morgan, Researcher</p> <p>Gareth Thomas, Researcher</p>

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Buffy Williams MS and Hefin David MS. Mike Hedges MS attended as a substitute for Buffy Williams MS. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Papers to note

- 2.1 The Committee noted the papers.

- 2.1 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 and Cost of Living
- 2.2 The Plant Protection Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2023
- 2.3 Responses to the Committee's report: Post–EU regional development funding
- 2.4 Cost of living pressures and the Young Person's Guarantee
- 2.5 Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization – Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
- 2.6 Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee report: Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 4) on the Levelling–up and Regeneration Bill
- 2.7 The Habitat Wales Scheme (HWS)
- 2.8 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25
- 2.9 Meeting of the Inter–Ministerial Group for Trade
- 2.10 The Official Controls (Establishment Lists) (Revocation) Regulations 2023
- 2.11 The Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans–Pacific Partnership) Bill

3 Inquiry: Research and Development: Funding bodies

- 3.1 The Committee heard evidence from the panel on research and development.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed to write to the panel with questions not reached during the session.

4 Inquiry: Research and Development: Higher Education

- 4.1 The Committee heard evidence from the panel on research and development.
- 4.2 The Committee agreed to write to the panel with questions not reached during the session.

4.3 Universities Wales advised that they carried out some economic impact work which looked across all Welsh regions down to sub-regional level which showed that Universities have impact even if not located in that area, and agreed to write to the Committee to provide further detail.

5 Inquiry: Research and Development: Business

5.1 The Committee heard evidence from the panel on research and development.

5.2 The Committee agreed to write to the panel with questions not reached during the session.

6 The Future of Welsh Steel: Trade Unions

6.1 The Committee heard evidence from the panel on the future of Welsh steel.

7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting and for items 1, 2 and 3 of the meeting on 13 December 2023

7.1 The Motion to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting and for items 1, 2 and 3 of the meeting on 13 December 2023 was agreed.

8 Consideration of evidence following the meeting

8.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.