Agenda – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 2 – Senedd

and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 29 January 2026

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Robert Donovan

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

09.15 – 09.30

Public session

09.30 – 12.20

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

09.30

2 Inward investment: Panel 5

09.30 – 10.30 (Pages 1 – 38)

Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government

Russell Roberts, Deputy Director – Trade and Inward Investment, Welsh Government

Heledd Owen, Deputy Director – Marketing Tourism and Business, Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Evidence paper – Welsh Government

Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Break

10.30 - 10.40

3 Future of Welsh Steel

10.40 - 11.40 (Pages 39 - 86)

Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government
Áine Gawthorpe, Deputy Director, Industrial Transformation and Foundational Economy, Welsh Government
Neil Surman, Deputy Director - Skills, Welsh Government

Attached Documents:
Research brief
Evidence paper - Welsh Government
Engagement report

Break

11.40 - 11.50

4 Local Growth Fund

11.50 - 12.20 (Pages 87 - 100)

Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government
Liz Lalley, Director - Economic Strategy and Green Growth, Welsh Government
Thomas Smithson, Deputy Director - Economic Strategy and Regulation, Welsh Government

Attached Documents:
Research brief

5 Papers to note

12.20

5.1 Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report: Digging the Dirt: Improving Wales' Soil Health

(Pages 101 - 113)

Attached Documents:

Welsh Government response - 16 January 2026

5.2 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 114 - 115)

Attached Documents:

Publication of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) - Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee - 19 January 2026

Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee - 20 January 2026

5.3 Inward Investment

(Pages 116 - 124)

Attached Documents:

Written evidence from Industrial Communities Alliance - 20 January 2026

Written evidence from Professor Riccardo Crescenzi, London School of Economics - 21 January 2026

5.4 Timetables for Bill scrutiny

(Page 125)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Llywydd, and Chair of the Business Committee – 21 January 2026

5.5 Holyhead Port closure

(Pages 126 – 129)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the UK and Irish Road Haulage Associations – 21 January 2026

Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales – 21 January 2026

5.6 Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE)

(Pages 130 – 131)

Attached Documents:

Response letter from the Secretary of State for Transport, UK Government – 21 January 2026

5.7 Banning peat compost

(Page 132)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Economy, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, House of Commons – 21 January 2026

5.8 Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

(Pages 133 - 134)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Short Term Accommodation Association (STAA) to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language - 23 January 2026

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

12.20

Private session

12.20 - 13.00

7 Inward Investment: Consideration of evidence

12.20 - 12.30

8 Future of Welsh Steel: Consideration of evidence

12.30 - 12.40

9 Local Growth Fund: Consideration of evidence

12.40 - 12.50

10 Legacy report discussion

12.50 - 13.00 (Pages 135 - 138)

Attached Documents:

Legacy report discussion paper