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Enterprise and Business Committee – 27 September 2012

During my attendance at the Enterprise and Business Committee on the 27 September, I offered to write to the Committee outlining the timescale for the development of the 2014-2020 Structural Fund programmes. I have outlined at Annex 1 the key milestones and timescales associated with the development process.

I would also like to use this opportunity to inform you of the timescales related to Dr Guildford's review of arrangements for implementation of European Structural Fund Programmes 2014-2020. As well as an initial 'tell us your views' phase, Dr Guilford has recently issued (24 October) a discussion document to collate as many views as possible from stakeholders to identify lessons learned and recommend improvements for the delivery of future programmes. With the review split into two parts, an interim report will be published in late 2012, ahead of a final report due for publication before negotiations begin later in 2013 on the detail of the draft programming documents with the European Commission.

I would like to thank you and the Committee for your inquiry into the Structural Funds which has proved to be informative and comprehensive.

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Key milestones and timescales

- **May 2012:** Statement on the Principles and priorities for 2014-2020 EU Programmes in Wales
- **Summer 2012 – Autumn 2012:** Detailed development of the programmes with partners (workstreams – Operational Programmes, Delivery and Compliance, Monitoring & Evaluation and Territorial Co-operation)
- **Autumn 2012:** Development of the UK Partnership Agreement (including Welsh chapter)
- **End of 2012:** Initial report with recommendations on part one of the Guilford Review
- **January 2013 – April 2013:** Public consultation on draft Operational Programmes
- **February 2013:** Report on part two of the Guilford review
- **Early 2013:** Agreement of Multi-Annual Financial Framework
- **Summer 2013:** Agreement of Regulations
- **Spring/Summer 2013:** Public consultation on UK Partnership Agreement
- **Summer 2013 – Autumn 2013:** Submission and negotiation of the Operational programmes with the European Commission
- **1 January 2014:** Earliest Wales' programmes can be approved to start
- **2014:** Launch and delivery of EU programmes 2014–2020 in Wales