



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS

Economy, Trade & Rural Affairs Committee

25 March 2022

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 February regarding arrivals from Afghanistan with HGV driving experience.

Officials are working closely with Working Wales (Careers Wales' adult guidance service) to ensure that refugees who settle in Wales can access the ReAct programme and its successor programme ReAct+. The programme can provide up to £1500 towards the cost of acquiring a UK lorry driving licence and associated qualifications such as the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC).

Officials have already established the evidence requirements for entry to the ReAct programme, in consultation with agencies who are supporting refugees and the Welsh European Funding Office; we expect that refugees from Afghanistan will have little difficulty in meeting these requirements.

The new ReAct+ programme will introduce a Personal Development Support grant which is designed to remove barriers to employment that are not skills-related; this grant may be used to assist with the cost of 'conversion' to UK driving licences.

Working Wales can arrange for interpreters to assist with the information, advice and guidance process. Working Wales is also working closely with the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership and local authorities to ensure that refugees have full access to employability and skills support.

I have asked officials in skills division to get in touch directly with displaced People in Action to promote the Welsh Government's free HGV driver training programme to support Afghan people and others based in Wales looking for employment within the industry.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**

Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy