

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

—
**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

Senedd Cymru

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Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy

4 April 2022

Dear Minister,

I am writing to seek clarification on a statement made by the Deputy Minister for Arts & Sport, Dawn Bowden MS in her **response** to the Committee's debate on our report "**A new direction for HGV Drivers**." In her response the Deputy Minister said:

"It's clear that the industry sees improved facilities for drivers as crucial to growing recruitment, and we've talked about that already. So, the Welsh Government was disappointed to learn that the £32.5 million of new funding to improve lorry parking facilities will only be made available for England. Although these matters are reserved, we have established cross-policy groups to review the latest issues, including training and roadside conditions. We're actively working on a number of areas to address and support the sector, and this includes working on a range of mitigations and interventions with various UK Government departments, the DVSA and logistics representative bodies."

I would appreciate it if you could clarify the Welsh Government's view on the devolution settlement in relation to driver training, roadside conditions and facilities. Specifically, the extent of any reservation given that powers in relation to skills and apprenticeships, highway infrastructure and land-use planning are devolved. The Committee believes these devolved areas could be used to improve availability of driver training, roadside facilities / rest areas and facilities at freight customer premises in Wales. Your view has implications for the Committee's recommendations 1, 3, 4 and 5 in our report.

We would appreciate a response to this by 21st of April so Members can consider it at the Committee's next meeting.

I look forward to your reply in due course.



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

