

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

**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

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Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister

21 November 2022

Dear Mark,

I am writing following the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's Report on International Agreements Considered on 26th September 2022. The report discussed, amongst other international agreements, the Second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime and highlights your role in relation to "national security, including counterterrorism and cyber security".

Cyber security is a fast developing area with a lot of opportunity. I am looking forward to following the development of the new South Wales Cyber Security Hub. A strong cyber security sector will bring high quality jobs and support a host of innovative businesses.

As well as being a burgeoning, emerging industry in its own right, cyber security is of course also absolutely vital for securing our businesses and public sector bodies against potential harm. As such it is vital that we ensure Wales has a well-skilled cyber security workforce.

Following on from the LJC report I would be keen to hear your views on the Second Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

I would also like some more detail on the way the Welsh Government is supporting and promoting cyber security and the wider industry. Please can you let me know:

- In addition to the financial support for the hub, what work has the Welsh Government undertaken to upskill our workforce around real risk, governance and policy cyber security skills?



- Does Welsh Government have any plans to help boost the employability of people in the cyber security industry post qualification?
- Currently the cyber security sector is male dominated, is or will the Welsh Government be taking any action to encourage more women into the sector?

I also note that the UK Government has ordered Nexperia BV to sell 86% of its share in Nexperia Newport Limited, the Semi-Conductor manufacturer in Newport formerly known as Wafer Fab. The order cited two reasons for the forced sale:

- Technology and know-how that could result from a potential reintroduction of compound semiconductor activities at the Newport site, and the potential for those activities to undermine UK capabilities; and
- The location of the site could facilitate access to technological expertise and know-how in the South Wales Cluster ("the Cluster"), and the links between the site and the Cluster may prevent the Cluster being engaged in future projects relevant to national security.

I note from the news coverage the Welsh Government said the UK Government's announcement had brought "welcome clarity" and it's priority is to "safeguard jobs." As you will now have had time to consider the facts of the matter please could you set out any implications as you see them of this sale and any actions the Welsh Government will be taking as a result?

I have copied this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Delyth Jewell MS, Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

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