



Ein cyf/Our ref:VG/00021/23

Huw Irranca-Davies MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru

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19 January 2023

Dear Huw

Further to my letter of 16 January, I wanted to update you on the outcome of the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Business and Industry was held on 17 January.

The meeting attendees were as previously indicated.

At the meeting we discussed the issues currently impacting the respective economies of each nation. We also reviewed the replacement energy support scheme for business, the Energy Bills Discount Scheme (EBDS). While I welcomed the universality of the new scheme, which will provide some certainty for businesses, I emphasised to Minister Callanan how the EBDS could do more the help the public sector and those businesses who supply public sector organisations.

Lord Callanan also provided an update on the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill. I raised my concerns over the legislation and while recognising that employment law is a reserved matter, I do not share the UK Government's analysis of the impact on the devolution settlement. I emphasised Welsh Government's position that strike action should be always avoided or resolved through constructive negotiation, not legislation.

There followed an update on the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill, the associated reforms to Companies House and the implementation of the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I reiterated how I welcomed the provisions included in the Economic Crime Bill and have already laid a Legislative Consent Memorandum before the Senedd.

Finally, we spoke about the strategic focus of this IMG. It was agreed that meetings need to focus on shared key policy areas.

The next Business and Industry IMG will be held in March, which I will Chair. I will write to the Committee confirming the date once it has been agreed.

A communique regarding this meeting will be published on the UK Government website at [Interministerial Group for Business and Industry: communiqués - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interministerial-group-for-business-and-industry-communicues)

I am also copying this letter to the Lywydd the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, and the Economy Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Gweinidog yr Economi  
Minister for Economy