



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00257/23

Paul Davies MS
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN

24 July 2023

Dear Paul Davies MS,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June, requesting further information on work with the Western Gateway Partnership, UK Government structures, the Windsor Framework and the Border Target Operating Model.

With regard to hydrogen opportunities associated with the Western Gateway, we know the climate emergency demands we use all the tools at our disposal to accelerate progress to a net-zero energy system. We have regular dialogue with the Western Gateway Partnership on areas of joint activity and the Minister for Climate Change was a keynote speaker at its recent hydrogen conference in ICCW. We are also working with Cardiff Capital Region and Bridgend County Borough Council to explore how we may be able to support a hydrogen demonstrator project focused on transport and area heating.

While it is still a developing technology, hydrogen's unique properties mean it could, alongside extensive renewables developments, have a strong role in decarbonising Wales's power, transport and industrial processes and may have a role in delivering low carbon heating.

It is essential that as we develop our hydrogen capacity, we do not lock in a generation that relies on continued use of fossil fuels. We want to see a rapid transition to green hydrogen in Wales as soon as practicably possible.

Our hydrogen pathway sets out ten objectives focused on short term actions driving demand, production and cross-cutting action to 2025. They also set out avenues to plan for larger-scale projects to ensure Wales is well-positioned with respect to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. We are committed to working with partners in Wales to deliver our ambitions.

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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.

In terms of how the Department for Business and Trade is structured, we have not been provided with a detailed organisational structure, but we do have a list of Ministerial responsibilities, these are as follows:

- Minister for International Trade - Minister Huddleston
- Minister for Industry and Economic Security - Minister Ghani (also Minister for Investment Security in the Cabinet Office)
- Minister for Investment - Lord Johnson
- Minister for Enterprise, Markets, and Small Business - Minister Hollinrake
- Minister for Exports - Lord Offord (also Lords Minister for the Scotland Office)
- Minister for Regulatory Reform - Earl of Minto.

I have set out a more detailed list of responsibilities at annex A.

In relation to the Windsor Framework, a secondary legislation programme to implement certain provisions of the framework, notably the Retail Movement Scheme, is being led by DEFRA with the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd in the lead for the Welsh Government. I'm sure the Minister would be happy to provide updates to the Committee as the programme proceeds.

Lastly, on the Border Target Operating Model, we are expecting an announcement from the UK Government in the next week or so. I will provide a further update for Committee Members as soon as that is announced, setting out what it means for goods moving to Wales from the island of Ireland. I will also lay a Written Statement in the Senedd.

I hope the Committee will find this information useful.

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

Annex A

Name / Role	Responsibilities
<p>Nigel Huddleston MP</p> <p>Minister for International Trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall free trade agreement (FTA) and market access strategy • FTA negotiations • Bilateral trade relations • Osaka 2025 Expo • Multilateral policy • Trade remedies • Tariffs and disputes • Export Control Joint Unit • Trade envoys • UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) implementation and review • Engagement with crown dependencies and overseas territories • Trade and Agriculture Commission • Trade Remedies Authority
<p>Nusrat Ghani MP</p> <p>Minister for Industry and Economic Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced manufacturing • Automotive • Aerospace • Sustainability and Infrastructure • Steel • Materials • Maritime and shipbuilding • Professional and business services • Canada and Mexico FTAs • Economic security • Retained EU law (repeal and reform) • Sanctions • Ukraine reconstruction • Global supply chains • Critical minerals • Trade defence • Industrial Development Advisory Board (IDAB)
<p>Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE</p> <p>Minister for Investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment strategy • Investment promotion across all sectors • Investor relationship management • Investment events (including Global Investment Summit) • DBT Investor Screening • Office for Investment • Defence and security exports • Lords trade legislation
<p>Kevin Hollinrake MP</p> <p>Minister for Enterprise, Markets, and Small Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business and enterprise • Scale up strategy • Access to finance • Labour market and employment rights (including National Minimum Wage)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postal Services (including Royal Mail) • Consumer and competition policy (including subsidy control) • Mutual recognition of professional qualifications • Office for Product Safety and Standards • Levelling up and regional growth • Corporate governance and transparency • Audit and insolvency • Hospitality • Retail • Consumer goods • Personal care • Post Office Limited • British Business Bank • Low Pay Commission • ACAS • Small Business Commissioner • Companies House • Competition & Markets Authority • Competition Service • The Insolvency Service • Competition Appeal Tribunal • Central Arbitration Committee • Certification Officer • Office of Manpower Economics • Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies • Groceries Code Adjudicator • Pub Code Adjudicator • British Hallmarking Council • Financial Reporting Council • Regulatory Policy Committee
<p>Lord Offord of Garvel Minister for Exports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export strategy implementation and promotion across all sectors • Supporting small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) to export • Export Support Service • Trade missions and trade shows • Free trade agreement (FTA) utilisation • Outward direct investment delivery • Made in the UK, Sold to the World campaign • UK Internal Market and the Union • Board of Trade • UK Export Finance
<p>The Earl of Minto Minister for Regulatory Reform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-government regulatory reform • Better regulation • Lords business legislation • All Private Members Bills • corporate issues