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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-404
Ein cyf/Our ref EH/00179/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petition's committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

6th February 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 23rd January requesting further clarification on my initial response to Petition P-04-404 regarding unmanned Aircraft at Aberporth.

I have considered all the points you raise in your letter and believe, where possible, I have addressed them in my previous correspondence. I am unable to provide any further breakdown of activity and associated jobs.

With respect to the regulatory environment, currently in the UK UAVs can only be deployed in restricted airspace. This will remain the position until all relevant authorities are satisfied that the technology is sufficiently advanced to allow manned and un-manned aircraft to safely operate together in open, non regulated airspace.

In creating a dedicated airspace in Wales for the testing and evaluation of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) we have provided an environment where civilian applications can be developed. Some examples of potential civil use include their usefulness to the emergency services; monitoring our land, coastal and marine environments; wildlife and farming, all which would be of undisputed benefit to Wales. The Welsh Government is currently supporting the Ursula project, another example of a civil application which is exploring the potential for advanced remote sensing in land applications, primarily in high input arable farming to aid land management.

The facilities at ParcAberporth put Wales in a strong position to establish itself as a leading location for the Test & Evaluation of UAS. This is a growing market that could potentially attract high value technology companies to Wales to the benefit of our economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M.', located below the main text block.