

Rebecca Evans MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

16 May 2025

Dear Rebecca,

### **Review of Business Support**

I understand that you mentioned at a recent meeting of [Cardiff Breakfast Club](#) that you were intending to undertake a review of the business support landscape. I also note in an [article on Business Live](#) you said you were “keen to explore all of that and to understand what the best business support system looks like in the future.”

You will recall recommendation 5 from the Committee’s [report](#) on the Development Bank of Wales, which stated “The Welsh Government should prioritise a review of Business Wales’ functions and examine the feasibility and desirability of integrating these functions into the remit of the Development Bank of Wales and focus on streamlining the offer of support to businesses. Over the next 6-12 months the Cabinet Secretary should keep the Committee updated on consideration of this issue and give a clear rationale for the decision taken consequently.”

The Welsh Government [response](#) to the report accepted the recommendation in principle “on the basis that future reviews of Business Wales and the Development Bank will consider where any further strengthening of the interface between the services is required and opportunities for service integration where appropriate. Welsh Government remains open to exploring options while seeking to secure the stability, quality and impartiality of established service delivery.”

The Committee is embarking on an [inquiry](#) into the four Welsh city and regional growth deals. It would be very useful to have further details of your plans for a review of business support as part of the evidence base for this inquiry. Please could you set out details of your planned review, including



any terms of reference or more generally the scope, who is carrying out the review, and what timeframe they are working towards. Please can you also include details of how/if this review will link into the Committee's recommendation above.

As you had previously committed to keeping the committee updated regarding reviews of business support, I would appreciate if you could supply this information by 30 May. Thank you in advance for providing this information – it will be very useful to our inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English