



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Andrew RT Davies MS  
Chair - Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

27 June 2025

Dear Andrew,

### Review of Business Support

I am pleased to hear of the ETRA Committee's plans and I can confirm that I have asked my officials to undertake a review of Business Support arrangements, to include:

- analysis of what Wales gets for our current Business Support activities, and whether those results are aligned to areas of the economy that offer the best opportunities and the greatest needs;
- recommendations on the relative weight of resources that we put into various sectors;
- the impact of UK Government intervention in Business Support in Wales, and how our respective offerings should complement each other;
- signposting and co-ordination of the overall Business Support offering in Wales, including all branches of the Welsh Government and its arm's length bodies and its delivery partners; and
- opportunities for efficiencies that can be ploughed back into support for the Welsh economy.

Everyone wants to see sustainable businesses creating more growth and investment, but that of itself is not evidence that a fundamental reconstruction of how Business Support is delivered is necessary. I am not persuaded that there is strong evidence that moving to any one substantially different model could confidently be expected to bring about an improved service for an equivalent cost, and whatever gains can be made by closer alignment of service delivery need to be balanced against the potential cost, delay and disruption, not to mention regulatory issues.

I will therefore be looking for opportunities for practical change that can be brought about quickly. The review will be led by the Economy group operations team, and they will look for independent expertise to help in that, probably from a Welsh Government non-executive director. I am looking for Ministerial advice by September, so that any options I agree to can be implemented within the current Senedd term.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales)  
[Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru)

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.

This review is not limited to just Welsh Government and DBW services but includes the things we committed to in our response to your Committee's recommendation, namely consideration of where further strengthening of the interface between the services is required and opportunities for service integration.

In the meantime, I have had a very helpful meeting with the Federation of Small Businesses, whose own report is due shortly, and I will of course be considering other evidence. I will also be interested in the outcome of your Committee's work on the City and Regional Growth Deals and look forward to seeing that in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'E'.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio