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Y Gweinidog Cyllid  
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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/JH/1347/13

Jocelyn Davies AM  
Committee Chair  
Finance Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

29 April 2013

*Dear Jocelyn*

**Report of the Finance Committee, Invest-to-Save (March 2013)**

I welcome this report of your inquiry into the Invest-to-Save Fund, which I consider to be helpful, pertinent and will assist us in our thinking to further improve the way the Fund operates. I put on record my appreciation of the hard work by the Finance Committee in collecting evidence and presenting their findings.

The report's recommendations relating to Invest-to-Save are consistent with the work being done on the Fund and I am pleased to be able to accept them. For the final recommendation relating to the Regional Collaboration Fund, this requires further consideration as it falls to the portfolio of the Minister for Local Government and Government Business.

These are difficult and challenging financial times. Furthering the efficiency and effectiveness of our public services in Wales is a high priority for the Welsh Government as is the need to ensure the most efficient and effective use of the resources we have available at our disposal. The necessity to find different ways to deliver services that are more cost-effective, but at the same time, maintain or improve on quality has never been so great. We have sought to prepare for this with the development of a Welsh Government efficiency agenda – including the introduction of the Invest-to-Save Fund.

The Welsh Government has been making investments from the Invest-to-Save Fund since early 2010. Seven funding rounds later the value of investment made amounts to over £75million, in support of a total of 65 projects.

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Learning from the new approaches and cascading this new knowledge is essential and the Committee's endorsement of the Welsh Government's approach to capture and share learning through published reports and case-studies of supported projects and the link with the key link Public Service Leadership Group is very welcome.

We will continue to review the effectiveness of the Invest-to-Save Fund in helping to improve public services and have now commissioned work to start on an external evaluation. The Committee's report, and the evidence presented during its preparation, will provide valuable information to assist us in that process. I thank the Committee again for its work during the inquiry into the Fund.

My response to the Report's recommendations are included in an annex to this letter.

*Best wishes,*

*Jane*

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