

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-577
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/05082/14

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

6 November 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for letter of 17 October regarding an EU funding proposal your Committee has received from Mr Aled Davies. This follows Mr Davies' petition, received by you in August, requesting the Welsh Government re-instate funding for the Regional SEN Transition into Employment Initiative (Real Opportunities project) which was supported through the 2007-2013 European Structural Fund programmes.

While the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) will offer an open call for new project proposals as soon as the 2014-2020 programmes are agreed by the European Commission, it will be seeking to support strategic projects which can deliver a joined-up approach to support individuals at a regional or pan-Wales level.

WEFO recognises the achievements of the Regional SEN project and is keen to see the activity continue. Mr Davies may therefore be interested to know that as part of the preparatory work underway, WEFO is in discussion with Caerphilly Council, who led the Real Opportunities project, to progress a new project aimed at supporting young people with learning difficulties, including support for young people in Carmarthenshire. My officials will continue to work with the Council to help develop their proposal as quickly as possible.

Should Mr Davies wish to consider aligning his proposal with that of Caerphilly Council's then I suggest he contact them direct: tel: 01443 815588 / 01495 226622 or email: info@caerphilly.gov.uk

However, should he wish to pursue an independent EU funding application, he should in the first instance contact WEFO for information on eligibility and how to apply: tel: 0845 010 3355

or email: Enquiries-WEFO@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', written in a cursive style.

Jane Hutt AC / AM

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