

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Wednesday, 29 February 2012**

Meeting time: **Times Not Specified**

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Jocelyn Davies (Chair)
Peter Black
Christine Chapman
Paul Davies
Mike Hedges
Ann Jones
Julie Morgan
Ieuan Wyn Jones
Alun Davies

Witnesses:

Berwyn Davies, Higher Education Wales
Professor Richard B Davies, Higher Education Wales
Damien O'Brien, Director of European Programmes, WEFO

Committee Staff:

Linda Heard (Deputy Clerk)
Martin Jennings (Researcher)
Eleanor Roy (Researcher)
Tom Jackson (Clerk)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the Public to the meeting.

2. Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – Higher Education Wales

2.1 The Chair Welcomed Professor Richard Davies, Berwyn Davies, Head of Welsh Higher Education Brussels.

Action Points:

Higher Education Wales agreed to provide a note to clarify whether the need for external evaluations, and wider financial discipline, were required only in Wales, or more broadly across Wales.

3. Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – Welsh Government

3.1 The Chair welcomed Alun Davies, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and European Programmes.

Damian O'Brien

Peter Ryland

Action Points:

The Welsh Government agreed to provide notes:

- Comparing the effectiveness of structural funds in Wales against those achieved by EU15 regions, particularly in terms of Growth and Jobs.
- Comparing the effectiveness of structural funds in Wales against those achieved by other UK regions, particularly in terms of Growth and Jobs.
- Setting out the consideration that WEFO gives to the future sustainability of projects during the application process.
- Setting out whether lesser funding is now available to further education colleges, than under the old objective-2ESF funding.
- Setting out the number of projects which will be funded via JESSICA which Local Authority are either leading, or partners in.

4. Papers to note

4.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the previous meeting, and noted correspondence from the Minister for Finance.

5. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Items 6–8

6. HM Treasury Public Expenditure – (PESA) Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses – User Consultation

5.1 The Committee discussed the HM Treasury Public Expenditure – (PESA) Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses – User Consultation, and resolved to respond to the consultation.

7. Discussion on Evidence – Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales

7.1 The Committee postponed its discussion of the evidence received in its inquiry into the Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales.

8. Future Committee Inquiries

8.1 The Committee postponed a discussion of future inquiries for a future meeting date.

TRANSCRIPT

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