

Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AC / AM  
Gweinidog yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth  
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

William Graham AM  
Chair, Enterprise & Business Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

10 February 2016

Dear William

I appreciate the Committee's continuing interest in making sure Wales makes the most of any feasible opportunities linked to being on TEN-T, especially the potential for joint projects with Ireland, and thought it would be useful to provide an update for members.

We have continued and furthered our engagement with Ireland and the public and private sectors in Wales to explore and identify potential bids under the current Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) call, focusing on connectivity with Ireland. The deadline for bids under the current call is 16 February.

This engagement has included discussions with the Irish Government agency the Marine Development Office (IMDO), the port of Dublin and Irish Rail, as well as port owners and ferry operators in Wales. The engagement has covered any strategic transport related projects emerging from the Wylfa B Horizon programme, the North Wales Rail Modernisation work, and Metro which could possibly meet the strict CEF bidding criteria.

The consensus from this engagement with stakeholders, including infrastructure owners, is that no suitably mature, committed projects are likely to emerge to bid for under this call.

All involved were very positive about continuing the dialogue, echoing the feedback that the committee received after its visit to Ireland last year. We will continue to build on these relationships and discussions with a view to working on joint projects that could be suitable for bids under the next TEN-T funding call.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
[Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Correspondence.edwina.Hart@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
*Printed on 100% recycled paper*

The discussions with the IMDO covered other European funding opportunities, in particular INTERREG, and we will continue to explore the potential for joint tourism projects and renewable energy projects with Ireland.

Edwina Hart