

Mark Drakeford AM/AC  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/MD/5775/16

Simon Thomas AM,  
Chair, Finance Committee,  
The National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

8 July 2016

Dear Simon

I welcomed the opportunity to attend Finance Committee on 28 June to support your scrutiny of the First Supplementary Budget 2016-17.

During that session we discussed the £1.5m business rate relief scheme for the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone, which was announced by the previous Government. I said I would follow up in writing regarding the evidence on the number of jobs which would be created through the scheme.

### **Enterprise Zones and Business Rate schemes**

Evidence gathered from businesses across the Enterprise Zones in Wales shows business rates to be amongst the most commonly cited barriers to achieving business objectives.

Welsh Government does not monitor data on jobs created for the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme in isolation. We do monitor outputs achieved against a number of key performance indicators which reflect the breadth of support provided in the Zones. The impact of business rates relief across the UK, in general, is not measured through numbers of jobs created or supported.

Over four financial years, the Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme has offered more than £9 million in support to over 200 businesses. Although it is too early to comment upon the success of the business rate scheme in the Port Talbot Enterprise Zone, estimates suggest that the Scheme could support up to 60 businesses during 2016-17.

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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.

More broadly, the Welsh Government regularly reports against jobs supported and other key performance indicators in our Enterprise Zones as a means of demonstrating progress. Such data is published at: <http://gov.wales/topics/businessandconomy/growing-the-economy/enterprisezones/?lang=en> and performance data for 2015-16 financial year will be published shortly.

I hope this information is helpful in completing your scrutiny of this budget.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**

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