

Adran yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol
Department for Economy, Skills and Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Vaughan Thomas,
Auditor General for Wales

18 May 2017

Dear Huw

WELSH GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL FUNDING OF CIRCUIT OF WALES LTD

Please find enclosed a copy of the Welsh Government's response to your recent report on the Welsh Government's initial funding of Circuit of Wales.

Of the 5 recommendations within this report I can confirm that we fully accept all 5.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick McGuire'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

Mick McGuire

Director, Sectors and Business

cc Cabinet Mailbox
PAC Mailbox
CGU Mailbox

Public Accounts Committee – Circuit of Wales - Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Recommendation 1.

Ensure that submissions to Welsh Ministers for decision approval include all information relevant to any items of proposed expenditure which may be novel, contentious or repercussive.

Recommendation: Accepted

We will reinforce the requirement for Directors and Deputy Directors to ensure all relevant information is included in Ministerial Advice that is considered novel, contentious or repercussive as part of the approval process.

Recommendation: 2.

Include within the Repayable Business Finance (RBF) application form a question asking whether any transactions involving RBF funds are to be conducted through related companies, and undertake robust due diligence in all cases where this is proposed.

Recommendation: Accepted

We have amended the RBF application form to include the related companies question and have put in place the protocol to undertake robust due diligence in relevant applications where this is proposed.

Recommendation: 3.

Ensure that the Welsh Industrial Development Advisory Board (WIDAB) is informed about all other Welsh Government support to a project that it is asked to consider, whether or not that support has yet been approved.

Recommendation: Accepted

We will reinforce the requirement for Business Development Teams to include all other Welsh Government support to a project, whether approved or not, in the formal case-paper presentation to WIDAB

Recommendation: 4.

Record and retain a note of all discussions between Welsh Government officials and funding applicants in relation to determination of items which are/are not to be included within approved expenditure.

Recommendation: Accepted

We will remind Business Development Managers that discussions with applicants surrounding eligible and approved expenditure must be minuted or noted.

Recommendation: 5.

Strengthen the process by which project claims are checked, authorised and passed for payment, to ensure that appropriate separation of duties is maintained.

Recommendation: Accepted

We will review the current process in which project claims are checked, authorised and passed for payment and strengthen the areas that could weaken the separation of duties.