

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Simon Thomas AM
Chair of the Finance Committee

2 July 2018

Dear Simon

During my evidence to the Finance Committee on 27 June 2018, I referred to the summary report on the engagement exercise (from December 2017 to March 2018) which gave our partners and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals set out in the Welsh Government's 'Regional investment in Wales after Brexit' policy paper.

The policy paper followed on from an inquiry into the future of regional policy in Wales, published by the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee in June 2017, which recommended principles for the Welsh Government to consider: clarity of purpose, measuring and evaluating, simplification and flexibility, and international best practice. These principles are reflected in the policy paper, which was published in December 2017.

The findings from the exercise have now been published in an independently produced summary report which is available by following this link: <https://gov.wales/funding/regional-investment-in-wales-after-brexit/?lang=en>

As noted in my evidence, the report finds broad support of the proposed policy direction, including the need for the Welsh Government to set the strategic direction, a rejection of a centralised UK approach, and the removal of current artificial boundaries. Specific issues, such as those around simplification, outcomes, and partnership arrangements were also raised by both individuals and organisations across Wales. These are detailed in the summary report and will form an integral part of the next phase of continuing to develop a regional investment policy for Wales outside of the EU.

We will now reflect on these findings and will set out next steps for development after the summer.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
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Cabinet Secretary for Finance