

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
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
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

19 July 2018

Dear Simon,

I am writing to you as chair of the Finance Committee to amplify a comment I made on 27 June when giving evidence as part of your Inquiry into preparations for replacing EU funding in Wales.

In response to questions about alternatives to Horizon 2020, how we can ensure Welsh universities are protected, I said that “Welsh universities have been more successful in relation to Horizon 2020 than other parts of the United Kingdom”.

Welsh universities have succeeded in attracting Horizon 2020 grants worth over €67 million (28 June 2018), not including the additional €9.5 million brought into Wales for the benefit of the universities by Welsh Government’s Sêr Cymru COFUND. This means that universities in Wales bring in 69% of our Horizon 2020 funding in Wales – higher than the equivalent UK percentage (66%), although some individual institutions elsewhere, such as University College London lead the UK list of recipients.

Welsh universities are also doing well in a European context. They have been directly awarded 0.6% of all the funding for EU higher education bodies in Horizon 2020, which is in line with our proportion of the European Union population.

Cardiff University alone has received over €35 million from Horizon 2020 since 2014, making it 23rd out of the UK universities. Welsh universities are also notably successful in the prestigious European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, but they have a good presence across the different parts of the programme according to their specialism (for example Aberystwyth University in the Agriculture programme).

All this underlines the importance of my other comments to the Committee. Horizon 2020 and its successor Horizon Europe have clear added value through the prestige of their

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales

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.

global brands, the worldwide recognition of their excellence, their increasing budget and their international collaborative approach. The Welsh Government continues to press the UK Government for full access these important programmes after we leave the EU.

It is particularly important the UK Government also recognises how research and innovation funds interrelate at a practical level, meaning Welsh participation in Horizon 2020 rests on the bedrock of over £300m of EU Structural Funds invested in research and innovation through the 2014-2020 programme, building on investments made through previous programmes. As our Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Report¹ sets out Wales is making strong progress, but structural issues remain and given the important link between funds supporting Welsh access and performance in Horizon 2020, our momentum could be lost without replacement equivalent regional funding from the UK.

Best wishes,

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

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

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Cabinet Secretary for Finance

¹ <http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/horizon/180307-horizon-annual-report-2017-en.pdf>