The current Welsh Freight Strategy was published in May 2008. The nature of the freight sector, the environment in which it operates and the priorities of the Welsh Government have changed significantly – for example in terms of focus on the commitment to decarbonise the economy and transport sectors, the development of connected and autonomous vehicles, smart infrastructure, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The Welsh Government is currently updating its Wales Transport Strategy.

The Fellowship should consider the following:

- The impact and effectiveness of the current Wales Freight Strategy;
- A baseline of freight and logistics in Wales, considering connections to / from England and the Republic of Ireland, and including the barriers, risks and opportunities in Wales. This will involve a literature review on freight and logistics planning and strategies in the UK and Internationally, as well as consideration of available data.
- A scoping exercise, based on the above, to suggest the key attributes of the specification and high level content for a future freight strategy, what a potential framework for an action / delivery plan might look like, as well as how engagement mechanisms such as Freight Partnership could be implemented.
- How freight and logistics should be reflected in the new Wales Transport Strategy, its delivery plan and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. This would be in the context of the wider evolving transport planning and delivery framework in Wales and considering cross border connections with England. The commission should cover all modes of freight transport.

Since the Wales Transport Strategy is due to be updated during 2020 the precise scope and approach to this Fellowship may change in the light of developments – for example publication of a draft Wales Transport Strategy. This will be agreed between the fellow and the Assembly Researcher as the project progresses.
2 Skills/expertise required

- Expertise in freight & logistics both in practice and as public policy;
- Knowledge of Welsh and wider UK freight and transport policy;
- Knowledge of international best practice – or the ability to assimilate it quickly and independently;
- Excellent written and oral communications skills – be comfortable giving evidence to Assembly Committees and meeting / engaging with key players if required;
- Able to work with and take direction from Assembly Researchers.

3 Expected Outputs

The core output will be a research briefing published by Senedd Research. However, while no Committee work on freight is currently programmed, the Fellow will need to be prepared to give evidence to / present and discuss their work with Assembly Committees or individual Assembly Members should relevant business arise.

4 Expected timescale

Completion and publication in autumn 2020 (to be agreed with the Fellow). The academic should be prepared to outline early findings to Committees in the summer term (June/July 2020) should Committee work programmes make this desirable.

5 Working arrangements

There is no requirement for the academic to be based in the Assembly’s offices in Cardiff. Periodic meetings with researchers will be required. The time commitment, phasing of work and the delivery deadlines will be determined and agreed with the successful candidate, but it is unlikely to be more than 1-2 days a week for 3-4 months.