# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **Freeport Programme in Wales – Outcome of the Competitive Bidding Process** |
| **DATE** | **23 March 2023** |
| **BY** | **Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy** |

Following a detailed and robust assessment process undertaken by both the Welsh Government and the UK Government, I am pleased to announce the Celtic Freeport and Anglesey Freeport/Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Mon will proceed to the next stage of the Welsh Freeports Programme process.

Progressing two freeports – with sites in North and South Wales – is a real opportunity to enhance our plans to create a stronger, fairer and greener Welsh economy.

The Celtic Freeport in Milford Haven and Port Talbot and Anglesey Freeport/Porthladd Rhydd Ynys Mon presented a compelling narrative about how they will use their freeport status to regenerate their respective local communities, embed fair work, establish hubs for global trade and foster an innovative environment.

Each freeport would be supported by capital investment from the UK and Welsh governments, and would be able to access a range of customs benefits and tax reliefs once an outline business case has been agreed. A generous package of trade and innovation support will also be available to each freeport.

I will provide the Senedd with a fuller account of the outcome of this process and the next steps in an oral statement on Tuesday 28 March.