Vaughan Gething AS/MS Gweinidog yr Economi Minister for Economy

WQ90388 Rhys ab Owen Rhys.abOwen@senedd.wales



12 February 2024

Dear Rhys,

I'm writing in response to WQ90388: What steps are being taken to ensure that international and UK-wide labour standards are enforced firmly in Wales?

Employment rights and their enforcement is a reserved matter. In meetings with UK Ministers, I have pressed the need to strengthen employment protections and their enforcement. We have repeatedly called on the UK Government to honour the commitment it made in 2019 for an Employment Bill and a Single Enforcement Body which is properly resourced. In the absence of enforcement powers, we have established the Code of Practice on Ethical Employment in Supply Chains to help ensure workers in public sector supply chains are employed in a fair and ethical way, and we use levers such as the Economic Contract to assure ourselves that employers we work with act in accordance with their legal responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi Minister for Economy