

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language**



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ92653

**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Sam Rowlands

Member of the Senedd for North Wales

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Ty Hywel

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10 June 2024

Dear Sam

Thank you for your Written Question of 26 April 2024 and please accept my apologies for the delay in sending a full response.

What is the Welsh Government doing to help upskill small business leaders?

The Personal Learning Account (PLA) programme is available to support business leaders in smaller companies to upskill and reskill in priority sectors. The programme is available to those earning a basic salary below the annual median (currently £30,596) and includes those who are self-employed. There is no salary cap in place for individuals wishing to study Net Zero Skills or Digital Skills. The PLA programme is intended to be agile enough to respond to regional and national skills needs.

The Welsh Government also offers the Flexible Skills Programme which provides a skills training grant, on a co- investment basis, to all employers in Wales, in order to help businesses meet their upskilling or reskilling objectives. Successful applicants will qualify for a subsidy, up to an agreed level, of 50% towards privately procured training, using a provider(s) of their own choice. The FSP Partnership Projects are a strand of the programme, which is designed to help drive Wales' wider skills economy, focusing on priority skills needs identified by Welsh employers and industry representative bodies. The Partnership Project strand currently supports provision in key priority sectors such as Net Zero Skills, Advanced Digital and Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and offers a range of technical skills provision with the inclusion of Leadership and Management skills.

Our apprenticeships programme continues to provide support to all types of businesses in Wales. We are continuing to promote and prioritise quality apprenticeships including those in higher level, more technical sectors, supporting STEM apprenticeships and net-zero preparedness. We are also committed to increasing the numbers of degree apprenticeships.

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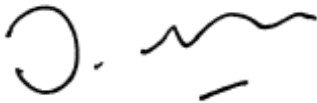
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Business Wales provides Business Online Support Service (BOSS). Digital courses created by experts to support businesses across Wales. Popular courses include Intellectual property rights, cyber security, looking for finance, a greener business, exporting and creating your brand.

In addition, Business Wales Recruit and Train provides a first line response to help businesses and employers navigate support available and their dedicated skills advisers can undertake a diagnostic in relation to recruitment and training needs and they will then provide advice to help upskill business leaders in smaller companies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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