



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ82688

Paul Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

6 July 2021

Dear Paul,

Further to your recent Written Question, WQ82688, the Welsh Government published a series of action plans in November 2020 that set out how we will deliver the ambitions of the International Strategy. This includes our vision for exports, diaspora engagement, priority regional relationships, soft power and diplomacy and Wales & Africa. These have all been developed against the backdrop of the UK's departure from the EU and the global pandemic, so reflect the major challenges that the Welsh economy is facing.

We are making good progress in implementing the Export Plan and have already delivered against several of the key actions, such as improving our digital offering to support exporters with online training modules and our Export Hub that gives Welsh businesses access to information on a wide range of export issues.

Our approach to foreign direct investment (FDI), as set out in the International Strategy, will continue to promote those areas of the economy where Wales demonstrates international class capability, including cyber security, compound semiconductors, fintech, life sciences, renewable energy and value added / next generation manufacturing. We will also place significant emphasis on existing and emerging magnet initiatives and projects across Wales that provide business opportunities and attract investment for Wales' long-term gains and in areas of activity that drive an equal, green and prosperous recovery.

During the pandemic, around £2.5bn has been made available to businesses of all sizes across Wales to support their operations, including £500m through the Economic Resilience Fund. Consequently, this has allowed many foreign-owned companies to safeguard their Welsh footprint and maintain employment for Welsh workers who could otherwise have lost their jobs.

Latest figures for 2020-21, published by the Department for International Trade (DIT), show that Wales was the only UK nation to see the number of inward investment projects increase over the last year, with 6,907 jobs safeguarded, including those as a direct result of Covid-19 economic support from the Welsh Government.

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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.

Wales secured the following FDI results in 2020-21 (compared with 2019-20):

- 72 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects (16.1% increase).
- 1,529 new jobs (44.2% decrease)
- 6,907 safeguarded jobs (1,418.0% increase) - this represents a 41.4% share of all jobs safeguarded across the UK.

For large parts of the year investment flows were almost at a standstill, as companies sought to get through the pandemic and retain business, customers and, ultimately, operations. As a consequence, we have seen a decrease in the number of new jobs created alongside the large increase in the number of safeguarded jobs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy