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Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/RE/1577/16

Assembly Members

30 March 2016

Dear colleagues,

As promised during Assembly Questions on 9th March, please find attached a paper demonstrating some examples from the Natural Resources portfolio that have benefited from EU funding.

Yours sincerely,

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

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Some examples from the Natural Resources portfolio that have benefitted from EU funding

Flood and coastal erosion risk management

- Over the past 6 years, our Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme has been supported by around **£47m** from the European Regional Development Fund.
- This programme has recently completed and the evaluation of its performance will commence shortly, however we already know that the targets set have been well exceeded.
- The Programme had two targets to meet: 20 flood or coastal erosion risk management schemes and reduce risk for 2,700 properties. The achievements reported to date are: 40 flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes completed and reduced risk to over **8,800 properties**.
- We have more than tripled our ERDF programme targets to reduce flood risk to 2,700 homes and businesses, with a reduced flood risk for over 8,835 properties (including over 7,500 homes), infrastructure and major transport links.
- Many of the schemes from the ERDF programme have been used as examples of best practice to highlight the multiple benefits that can be achieved as a result of the investment in flood and coastal defence infrastructure.
- On completion of the ERDF programme in June 2015, **1,327 businesses** had seen their flood risk reduced. The Colwyn Bay scheme that was part funded through ERDF is also an example of where a flood and coastal defence asset can provide an opportunity for development and job creation. The water sports centre and associated regeneration constructed as a result of the coastal defence has seen 30 FTE jobs created.
- Research carried out by Cardiff University Business School in November 2012 estimated that **930 jobs** have been supported or created across Wales as a result of the flood and coastal erosion risk management construction works over 3 years. Updated estimates of economic impacts will be included within the final evaluation of the programme.

Farming

- The EU brought **£311m** to the 2007-2013 Rural Development Plan and matched with Welsh Government co-financing made a fund of £860m available which brought significant benefits to Wales. Over the period 2014-2020 it is investing around **£490m** in Wales under the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme which is a Wales-wide programme that aligns the EU priorities for rural development with the seven 'Well-being of Future Generations' goals. Our co-financing means we almost double that amount to provide an even bigger fund to support a range of activities designed to increase the sustainability and resilience of our natural environment and rural communities.



Energy

Homes

Waste

Floods

Coastal

Planning

Our Land

Seas

Food

Future

- The EU provided **£210m** in 2015 for the Basic Payment Scheme to **15,500 farm businesses** in Wales.
- Our Glastir suite of schemes, which focus on mitigating the challenges of climate change, carbon capture, water management and biodiversity brought over 1m ha of land under active management on 6,500 farms, and capital grants of **€20m** specifically addressed energy and water efficiency and slurry management;
- For rural economies and communities **397 projects were supported**, including 100 LEADER projects for locally defined needs, with job creation of 1,484 exceeding expectations.
- Welsh farming benefits from some **€300m** of European Commission Support every year. Across all farm types, subsidies accounted for an average of 81% of Farm Business Income in 2014/15; just over half of all farms either made a loss or would have done so without subsidy.

Food

- Welsh food and drink exports are worth over **£270m**, membership of the EU gives Welsh producer's unrestricted access to European Single Market with a market of 500m potential customers.
- HCC / Meat Promotion Wales have twice successfully secured European funding for promotional campaigns. In February 2015, a **€4.1m** programme commenced, with the EC contributing half the cost of the campaign.
- Targeted funding strengthened added value aspects of our food industry, bringing an increase of €33m GVA through grants of €105m to 191 SMEs, and shorter and more efficient supply chains to 33 co-operative projects;

Bovine TB Eradication Programme

- Since the UK has received European Commission approval of its TB Eradication Plans, a total of **£15.17m** has been awarded to the Welsh Government between 2010 and 2014.
- The Commission has also allocated **€31m** to the UK each year for both the 2015 and 2016 TB Eradication Plans. The funding will be split between Wales, England and Northern Ireland proportionately, based on eradication activities in each country. Costs which are eligible for reimbursement by the Commission (up to a ceiling) include TB testing and compensation for cattle slaughtered under the TB Eradication Programme.
- This funding has allowed the Welsh Government to continue to invest in measures which will impact positively on TB incidence in Wales:
 - Initiatives such as the annual TB testing of all cattle in Wales is finding disease at an earlier stage in order to prevent it spreading;
 - The Cymorth TB veterinary programme is providing veterinary support to farmers during a TB breakdown so their herd becomes TB free at the earliest opportunity;
 - A survey of badgers found dead in Wales so as to gain a better picture of the disease status of badgers across the country;
 - Investment in enhanced epidemiological investigation of TB breakdowns in a number of areas across Wales; identifying trends so that policies can be tailored to suit conditions in the designated areas.

