



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ87173, WQ87174, WQ87175, WQ87198

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales

01 February 2023

Dear Huw,

I am writing to response to:

WQ87173: What discussions has the Minister had with the UK Government regarding additional help for bakeries and other high energy use small and medium-sized enterprises who are facing a drop in UK Government support for energy costs from March 2023?

WQ87174: How is the Minister working with energy companies to immediately pass on the reductions in wholesale energy costs to bakeries and other high energy-use small and medium-sized enterprises?

WQ87175: What discussions has the Minister had with energy companies to renegotiate energy contracts with bakeries and other high energy-use small and medium-sized enterprises who are locked into expensive energy contracts which do not reflect the current reductions in wholesale energy costs?

WQ87198: What consideration has the Minister given convening an energy summit with Ministers from Scotland and the UK Government to demand that energy companies renegotiate costly energy contracts for small and medium enterprises and manufacturers and set an affordable cap on unit price electricity and energy costs?

Responsibility for the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) which provides support to businesses to help cope with the increase in energy costs, rests with the UK Government.

The Welsh Government has responded to the UK Government's consultation about replacing the EBRS with the Energy Bill Discount Scheme (EBDS) from April 2023 and made representations, including requests for support for energy intensive industries.

Whilst the new Scheme does provide higher levels of support for energy intensive industries, such as bakeries and also covers charities and public sector organisations, it is less generous than previous energy support. This is because it provides a discount per unit of energy rather than fixing the price at a target cost per unit

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

I have listened to the concerns of industry bodies and my officials will continue to liaise with colleagues in Scotland and the UK Government regarding the reduced level of support in the EBDS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy