



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ88747 WQ88748 WQ88749 WQ88751

Paul Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
Paul.Davies@senedd.wales

4 September 2023

Dear Paul,

I am writing to response to WQ88747 WQ88748 WQ88749 WQ 88751:

WQ88747: What discussions is the Welsh Government having with its counterparts across the UK about the economic opportunities arising from the space sector?

WQ88748: What is the Welsh Government doing to further develop Wales's space sector and increase the flow of private investment into the space sector in Wales?

WQ88749: What is the Welsh Government doing to increase Welsh research and development infrastructure in the space sector?

WQ88751: Will the Minister outline the Welsh Government's ambitions for the Welsh space sector for the next twelve months? (WQ88751)

WQ88747: *The Welsh Government meets regularly with a number of UK Government departments and organisations as well as the other devolved administrations to discuss opportunities arising from the space sector and ensure Wales gets its share of these. This includes:*

- *Regular discussions with the UK Space Agency on funding for research and development projects and to collaborate on key trade events to promote Wales's space sector.*
- *Collaborating with the Department of Business and Trade, Scottish Enterprise and the UK Space Agency at SpaceTech Europe in Bremen.*
- *Engagement with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology on the UK National Space Strategy.*

We will continue to engage with the UK Government and our counterparts in Scotland and Northern Ireland to promote and develop Wales's space sector.

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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.

WQ88748: *In 2022, I published the Welsh Government's space strategy, "Wales: A Sustainable Space Nation. The strategy sets out the strong and vibrant economic foundations for developing Wales's space sector and attracting private investment.*

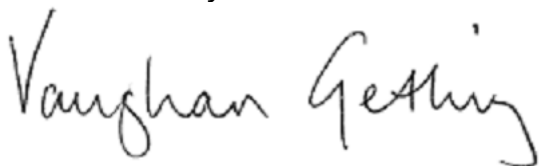
Welsh Government is undertaking a wide range of activities to support this. We are working closely with UK Government to ensure Wales is included in the promotion of the UK Space sector. We have delivered a programme of trade shows, including SpaceComm and UK Space Conference, where we promote Wales capabilities, target inward investment and support Welsh space companies to develop their businesses. We are also working closely with SpaceWales, who's objective is to raise the profile of Wales's space sector and attract investment into our companies, centres of excellence and infrastructure.

WQ88749: *Research and development is key to developing the space sector in Wales and is central to our space strategy. The Welsh Government supports the Arc of Innovation for the Space Sector in Wales. This Arc includes the Wales Academic Space Partnership (WASP), which is comprised of 6 Welsh Universities, and aims to support the development of space technologies. The Arc also includes a number of strategic sites, such as Snowdonia Spaceport, the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) and the Compound Semiconductor Applications Catapult.*

In addition to this work, the Welsh Government recently supported a number of applications from Welsh space companies to the UK Space Agency's Space Cluster and Infrastructure Fund. The applications focused on projects to support test and evaluation and microgravity research.

WQ88751: *Earlier this year, the UK Space Agency published its [Size and Health of the UK Space Industry Report 2022](#), which showed significant growth in Wales's Space Sector. Since 2018-19, Wales has seen a 50% increase in new jobs and new businesses across the sector. Our ambition is for Wales to achieve 5% share of the UK space sector. For the next 12 months, the Welsh Government will continue to build on this growth. We will continue to deliver our space strategy, work with organisations in the Arc of Innovation, support our business to grow and attend key trade shows to promote Wales's growing space sector.*

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