

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ92646

Paul Davies
Member of the Senedd for Preseli Pembrokeshire
Welsh Parliament
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22 May 2024

Dear Paul

Thank you for your recent written question in which you asked how much funding the Welsh Government intends to spend on projects to support the Irish Sea Framework in this financial year. I am responding following my holding reply.

The UK Government's position on the 2021-2027 European Territorial Co-operation programmes (other than Peace Plus) means that it has not been possible to develop a successor Ireland Wales cross-border programme through EU Frameworks. The UK Government also bypassed the Welsh Government on the design and implementation of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), which replaces EU funding. The SPF leaves Wales almost £1.3bn worse off between 2021 and 2025 compared to EU funds and the Welsh Government has been denied any access to the Fund.

Despite this, the Welsh Government's Agile Cymru programme is again supporting co-operation across and around the Irish Sea region this financial year. We launched a specific initiative on 9 May with a budget of up to £100k available for projects that will support the Irish Sea Framework. This will be complemented by other relevant Agile Cymru funding initiatives, including one supporting strategic capacity to engage in Horizon Europe with a budget of up to £50k, which was also launched on 9 May.

The Welsh Government is also involved in planning around a potential bi-lateral fund for supporting collaborative RD&I this financial year, which will align with the Irish Sea Framework.

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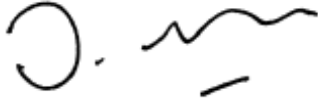
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The Irish Sea Framework is also designed to maximise the impact of existing resources and lever in investment where possible. We are aware that other nations, regions and stakeholders may align some of their investment activity in the future.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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