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Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a  
Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd  
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and  
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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF /AD-/4107/13

Nick Ramsay AM  
Chair of the Enterprise and  
Business Committee,  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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7u February 2013

*Dear Nick,*

**RESPONSE TO ACTION POINT FROM MEETING OF THE ENTERPRISE AND  
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ON 24 JANUARY 2013**

During my attendance at the meeting of the Enterprise and Business Committee on 24 January 2012, I agreed to provide the Committee with a note of clarification regarding:

- the percentage of EU programmes that the Welsh Government spends on measuring and evaluating success for the Structural Funds programmes managed and implemented by the Welsh Government (through WEFO).

WEFO has a programme research and evaluation budget of just over £2.5million. This equates to circa 0.1% of the value of the Structural Funds in Wales and is part funded through Technical Assistance from the European Commission. WEFO's evaluation strategy has two principle components: programme level evaluation and project level evaluation.

In undertaking programme level evaluation, WEFO is guided by an Evaluation Advisory Group (EAG): a free-standing group which comprises experts from the EC, the Programme Monitoring Committee, the Welsh Government and partner organisations. WEFO also participates actively in EC evaluation networks to keep abreast of the latest developments in the evaluation of European programmes, and building on lessons learned from past and current programme delivery is helping to lead best practice across the EU.

WEFO conducts a broad suite of programme level evaluations, as an integral part of its management of Structural Funds programmes. Some of these evaluations have already been completed with the remainder to be completed before the end of the programming period. The timing of programme level evaluations is informed by the stage of the programming cycle and also by EC requirements for evaluation. Ex-ante evaluations were required at the start of the programming period and an evaluation of programme implementation and a customer insight survey relatively early on in the programming period. As the end of the current programme period nears, various fund-type evaluation studies have been undertaken to help establish the outcomes associated with interventions. This

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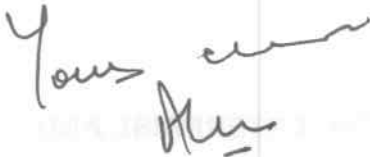
*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

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includes three large-scale surveys of individuals who have benefited from ESF support and a survey of assisted businesses. This work will continue until the end of the programme period when WEFO will then commission an ex-post evaluation to assess the overall impact of the programmes.

At project level, WEFO has a dedicated resource to provide monitoring and evaluation advice and guidance to project sponsors, including on the selection and use of indicators to monitor performance. All sponsors must also evaluate their projects, with those receiving over £2m in EU funds required to commission an independent, external evaluation of their projects. Support is provided from WEFO to help project sponsors meet these requirements and completed project evaluations will be published on the WEFO website.

In addition to the suite of evaluations for the 2007-2013 programmes, ex-ante evaluations, strategic environmental assessments, equality impact assessments are currently being prepared for the future round of funding 2014-2020, as well as ex-ante assessments for the future use of financial instruments, such as JEREMIE.



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