



Ein cyf/Our ref VG00011/23

Paul Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

12 January 2023

Dear Paul

During the Economy Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's General Scrutiny meeting on 7 December, I agreed to provide a written response to your questions on research and innovation which unfortunately we were not able to cover at the meeting.

The development of a cross-Welsh Government innovation strategy for growth and skills in our established research and innovation base has the aim of focusing innovation on delivering impact against our greatest challenges, a healthier population, climate change and economic recovery and resilience. I hope the answers to your questions provide the detail you require.

**The Committee notes that the Government has published an analysis of responses to its consultation on its [Innovation Strategy for Wales](#) – is there any further update on how the final version of the strategy is being developed?**

The strategy is currently being redrafted to address feedback from stakeholders following the public consultation process and a select roundtable session with key innovation opinion leaders, with input from both the Minister for Economy and the Plaid Cymru Designated Member.

This will result in a new streamlined structure for the strategy containing four main mission themes Economy; Education; Health and Wellbeing and Climate and Nature with emphasis throughout on equality, a culture of innovation and collaboration. Officials from across policy areas are currently re-drafting the strategy, we aim to publish in the New Year.

**How does the Minister respond to stakeholders who say the draft innovation strategy is too broad, and lacks a focus and measurable outcomes?**

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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.

We should not be restrictive when Innovation has the potential to impact so many things in so many areas. That is why the Innovation Strategy is taking an integrated approach to set a vision of how innovation can support the delivery of our Programme for Government commitments across all portfolios. Welsh Government Departments and portfolios are aware of the task ahead and are committed to continue working together to enhance activity to support our aims.

Following publication of the strategy, an Action Plan will follow setting out how the Welsh Government will implement the strategy. We recognise that we are only a small part of the innovation ecosystem in Wales; it is important that all actors play their part in delivering against the vision.

**Do you intend to publish the evidence base that you have used to inform the development of this innovation strategy?**

We are committed to full transparency and have already published the early research and stakeholder engagement outcomes and the analysis of consultation responses. Further supporting evidence will be published with the strategy.

**What specific funding commitments will the Welsh Government be making to fulfil the aims of the innovation and research strategy?**

Following the publication of the innovation strategy, we will be publishing an Action Plan which will set out in more detail our funding plans, support and commitments.

**When will you respond to your consultation on a draft Innovation Strategy, and can you give an update on your progress on publishing the final strategy in full?**

Officials are currently re-drafting the strategy in response to the feedback and evidence generated from the consultation, we aim to publish the final strategy early in the New Year.

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