



Eich cyf/Your ref: WQ87266

Natasha Asghar MS
Welsh Parliament
Natasha.Asghar@senedd.wales

15 February 2023

Dear Natasha,

I write in response to WQ87266: What assessment has the Minister made of the potential benefits to the Welsh economy of creating investment zones, as proposed by the UK Government for England?

As with Freeports, any Investment Zone should be co-selected and based on transparent criteria agreed by both governments. Any proposals for Investment Zones in Wales would also need to align with our policies on fair work and net zero. It is critical that we have early sight of information and evidence which identifies potential economic impacts and detailed independent analysis of the growth potential and displacement effects of an Investment Zone.

The detail on the UK Government's proposals for Investment Zones remains limited. Discussions will continue so we can understand more about potential implications for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

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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.