



DP 447/03-07

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Dear *Kirsty*

I promised at the Rural Partnership debate on 30 September that I would provide you with an update on the current position relating to Farm Tourism Grant.

I know that you are aware of the difficulties which the Wales Tourist Board have experienced in finalising the funding arrangements for this grant scheme. However, following discussions with the Welsh European Funding Office related to job-creation output targets, match funding in the Objective One area is now on stream. This has increased funding available in West Wales and the Valleys by £900,000.

Funding for farmers is available for Tourism projects in east Wales but there is strong competition for the resources available and farm businesses are having to compete for funds with other SMEs. I believe that the WTB have investigated the possibility of securing additional funding in the non-objective One area from the Rural Development Plan and the Objective Two programme. Unfortunately the support available for tourism projects within the RDP is both limited financially and restricted in terms of the type of project which can be supported.

More positively I understand that following further discussions with WEFO, the WTB is now in the process of making an application for funding from the Objective Two Programme, although this is likely to take a few months to come to fruition.



I am well aware of the frustrations which these delays are causing to farmers in east Wales who would like to progress their tourism projects. I have asked my officials to take a close interest in the progress of this issue and they will be meeting with Jonathan Jones of the WTB shortly to discuss whether anything else can be done to ease the situation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

Carwyn Jones AM