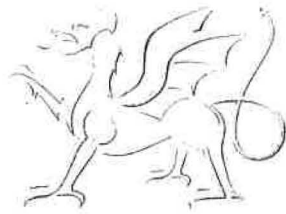


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Andrew Davies AM/AC
Minister for Economic Development & Transport
Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth



Our ref/Ein cyf: MB/AD/0561/05

Lisa Francis AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government
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Private Secretary / Ysgrifennydd Preifat
Angela Williams
029 2089 8772
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25 July 2005

Dear Lisa

I am writing to you to follow up an issue which you raised in the Plenary debate on 24 May, relating to the Oral Statement setting out the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Economic Development and Transport Committee's report on Economic Inactivity in Wales.

You raised a question about future budget implications for ELWa, in the light of the response to recommendation 6 of the report, which proposes that the Assembly Government, through ELWa, as appropriate, should undertake a programme to encourage employers in the care, tourism and construction sectors to provide and support skills training for their employees through workplace learning programmes.

The response to the report indicates acceptance of this recommendation, but you have asked about ELWa budgets in respect of workforce development. This is a term that covers raising the skills of the existing workforce, and much of this is funded by employers directly. Where ELWa support is provided, this is usually through its work-based learning programme, including Modern Apprenticeships, with appropriate contributions from FE institutions and targeted support under its skills for business programme, which incorporates the Investors in People initiative. My answer to your WAQ42684 stated that ELWa's overall budget is planned to rise by 11% to some £576 million in 2007-08, to allow it to respond to the range of issues set out in its remit, including the skills challenge. As the response to recommendation 6 of the Committee's report makes clear, the care, tourism and construction sectors have all been identified as areas in which strategic approaches to meet their skills development needs will be developed.

I am copying this letter to all EDT Committee members.

Handwritten signature

BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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