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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref

William Graham AM
Chair
Enterprise and Business Committee

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13 February 2015

Dear William

During the Enterprise and Business Committee meeting in December, I said I would write to you with further information in relation to Enterprise Zones and City Regions.

In terms of St Athan, we have agreed a short term solution to telecommunications issues, via copper wire, with the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Ultrafast Broadband will also be available on site shortly. Following close cooperation with the new airfield management contractor, Serco Ltd, and the MOD, St Athan airfield is able to open seven days a week (09:00 – 17:00 hrs). This is a major improvement to the marketability of the Aerospace Business Park.

In the Enterprise Zones, we have approved 134 applications and committed over £7.5 million in business rate support so far. The half year update in regard key performance indicators has also been published and can be accessed on the Enterprise Zones website through the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/business-wales/enterprisezones/?lang=en>

Enterprise Zone Boards are also currently reviewing their strategic plans reflecting on progress and achievements to date on a Zone by Zone basis, as well as detailing future Board priorities. These are due to be published later this year and will be available on the Enterprise Zone website.

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) have been designed to be compliant with the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). In July 2014, new Regional Aid Guidelines came into effect, accompanied by a revised GBER. In Wales, ECAs are available at four sites within three Enterprise Zones, two sites in Deeside and one each at Ebbw Vale and Haven Waterway. Businesses are able to claim 100% first year allowance for the capital cost of investment in plant and equipment made before 31 March 2020. A business that opts for the ECAs cannot receive other forms of State aid in respect of the same single investment project.

The PPIW report, 'Governing for Success: Reviewing the Evidence on Enterprise Zones', was published earlier this week and is available on the PPIW website through the following link: <http://ppiwi.org.uk/publications/>.

The Cardiff Capital Region Board recently published its strategic vision for the growth and development of the region. A copy of the report, 'Powering the Welsh Economy', is available on the Welsh Government website through the following link:
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/policy/city-regions/cardiff-capital-region/?lang=en> .

A copy of the Swansea Bay City Region is available at: [Economic Regeneration Strategy](#) .

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