



William Graham AM
Chair
Enterprise and Business Committee

14 July 2015

Dear William

At your Committee on 1st July, I responded to a question about the powers and policy levers the Welsh Government currently has in relation to mitigating the effects of large-scale job losses. I offered to give this issue more thought.

It has been clear from recent experience that the success of the task force approach is more dependent upon the buy in of the companies rather than additional powers or levers. Early and open engagement with the companies has allowed for better results.

Of the levers we do have, the most effective and useful ones often do not actually involve significant amounts of money. For example, one of the most powerful is to be able to offer a tailored approach to meet the company needs and those they employ.

Through the task force model it is clear that levers deployed such as brokerage, leadership, coordination and swift and decisive actions have been key. These are all existing powers.

I will of course continue to consider if additional powers are needed particularly in relation to the regulatory context which can sometimes directly impact on the ability of companies to maintain sustainable operations in Wales. I will also continue to press the UK Government for a stable regulatory environment that is appropriate to growth. This is particularly the case in the energy, environment and manufacturing sectors.

Edwina Hart