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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

William Graham AM
Chair
Enterprise and Business Committee

29 October 2015

Dear William

I write following my attendance at the Committee's meeting on 15 October regarding the Committee's Inquiry into the Potential of the Maritime Economy in Wales.

The information you have requested is set out in the attached annex. As agreed at the meeting, I will provide the Committee with an update on development opportunities with Ireland, including Motorways of the Sea projects, by the end of the year.

Edwina Hart

A provisional note on potential funding opportunities for the marine energy sector, included any Welsh Government engagement with the various sources of potential funds in this regard.

Funding sources for supporting the emerging Wave and Tidal Stream industry in Wales are listed below. Please note that some of the funding streams cover all sectors.

- EU Structural funding (ERDF) through the [Welsh European Funding Office](#) - c.a. €100m has been allocated to marine energy. The first projects to receive funding are to [Minesto UK](#) for its Deep Green project off Holyhead; and to [Marine Power Systems Ltd.](#) for its wave sub-energy converter.
- [SMARTCymru](#) Research, Development and Innovation funding through Business Wales.
- [InnovateUK](#) run periodic innovation challenges. There is regular engagement through my Innovation branch.
- [European Investment Bank](#), where there is engagement through the Welsh Government's Treasury function.
- [Green Investment Bank](#), where there is engagement via our London based Officials, although marine energy is not currently an investment priority for the Green Investment Bank.
- [Horizon 2020](#) – EU Framework for Research and Innovation, where there is engagement through the Wales European Funding Office and my Innovation branch.

Our Officials in Brussels are assisting with closer links to the Commission departments responsible for ocean energy funding.

Ongoing work to map the seabed to investigate the potential for locating tidal devices around Wales and in the Irish Sea.

The £1m Welsh Government funded [Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework](#) project investigates the potential marine renewable energy resource of Welsh Territorial Waters. This framework considers the potential scenarios for the sustainable development of that resource primarily as an aid to policy development and also as a resource for potential developers. It provides an on-line mapping tool which charts the geographic location of our marine energy resource to assist marine renewable developers in project site selection. The MRESF project takes into consideration development constraints, such as practical issues like access to ports and grid infrastructure, and also legislative considerations and nature conservation interests when identifying practical resource areas. MRESF has been used by a number of Wave and Tidal Stream development companies in their assessment of Welsh territorial waters and by The Crown Estate as part of the evidence gathered for determining the location of the two demonstration zones in Wales.

The mapping tool is currently available at <http://mresf.rpsgroup.com/GISMaps.aspx> (or enquiries via mresf@rpsgroup.com) and work is underway to consider how this first of a kind toolkit might be incorporated into the Welsh Government's Marine Planning Portal.

The service to developers continues to be provided to developers by [RPS](#) and my Officials would be happy to facilitate a demonstration of the toolkit should the Committee wish.