



Business Owners

25 September 2020

Dear all

I am writing to you as a grant recipient of the Welsh Government's unique Economic Resilience Fund (ERF).

The ERF has already supported 13,000 businesses in Wales, helping to protect around 100,000 jobs. More than £300 million has already been provided to help sustain micro and SME firms like yours. I hope the funding is helping your business through these difficult and unprecedented times and helping to protect your business and workforce.

One of the expectations of the ERF is that you engage with the evaluation of the fund. We will be contacting you over the coming months to collect your feedback and understand the impact on your business. This will include as part of the monitoring requirements of your ERF grant award, contacting you at around 12 months from the date that the grant was paid to ask that you provide us with documents, information and reports in order to monitor compliance with the conditions of funding. Further information on the type of evidence required is detailed within your award letter.

When accepting the grant you were expected to align with the ethos and principles of the Economic Contract including fair work. Further details on the Economic contract can be found on the Business Wales website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/economic-contract>.

During the coming months the Business Wales service will be offering related business support in all areas to help your business sustain and thrive beyond Covid-19 and of course Brexit so if we can help please call us on 03000 6 03000 or visit <https://businesswales.gov.wales>

Areas Business Wales may be able to support include access to finance and:

1. Access to the Welsh Government's Development Bank of Wales
<https://developmentbank.wales>
2. Accessing the right skills for your employees through the Skills Gateway
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway>
3. Further advice as we leave the EU, for example on how to export
<https://export.businesswales.gov.wales>
4. Covid-19 and what your business needs
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice>

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Fair Work is a key principle of the Economic Contract. The Welsh Government is committed to working with employers, trade unions and others to change people's working lives for the better so that more people have access to good work and a secure and fair income. As part of this, we support widening access to Trade Unions and collective agreements to help realise our ambition of making Wales a Fair Work nation. Research consistently demonstrates the benefits of employers and Trade Unions working as partners in a spirit of collaboration, shared commitment and mutual respect.

Every worker has a legal right to join a trade union, and we expect employers who receive public funds to allow trade unions access and seek a recognition agreement where workers request it. We would like you to remind your staff about this and encourage them to find the right union for them via: www.findyourunion.tuc.org.uk.

Recognising a workplace trade union benefits you as an employer, as well as your workforce. To employers, trade unions can be effective and resourceful partners in enabling simpler and successful negotiation processes, in assisting early identification and resolution of issues, and in enhancing employee engagement and satisfaction. A union can also help you with safety issues, so that fewer days are lost as a result of work-related injuries and occupational illnesses, organise training and development, including access to the Wales Union Learning Fund and support via union learning reps. For these reasons, we encourage all employers to see Trade Unions as partners in contributing to a more committed and productive workforce. More information on trade union recognition is available here: www.gov.uk/trade-union-recognition-employers.

I would ask you to share a copy of this letter with your workforce to show the support that is being provided to businesses such as yours and to highlight our shared commitment to Fair Work and Decarbonisation through the Economic Contract.

I wish your business every success for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales