

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1247
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/00068/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

28 January 2022

Dear Jack

I am writing in response to your letter on 12 November, seeking the Welsh Government's views on the adoption of a four-day working week in Wales.

I recognise potential benefits in a shorter working week and we are keen to see the outcome of pilots planned for Scotland and Ireland in particular. There has been some encouraging employer interest in the Irish pilot, but it will not begin until early 2022. The precise details of the Scottish pilot is not yet finalised. Our officials are in close contact with their counterparts in the Scottish Government and are discussing the experience of developing a pilot in a devolved context.

We want to consider the delivery, impact and outcomes of these pilots. We will want to see consistent evidence from these pilots of how a four-day working week can improve work-life balance, help us cut carbon emissions and support gender equality, whilst avoiding unintended consequences.

As referenced in First Ministers' Questions recently, some businesses in Wales have already expressed an interest in a four-day week as they believe it makes commercial sense to do so. We would support their policy intent should they decide to implement such an arrangement.

More broadly, a four-day working week is just one example of flexible working and through our social partnership approach, we are keen to encourage more employers to look innovatively at job design to enable workers to exercise more choice over where, when and how they work.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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Minister for Economy

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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.