

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George AM,
Chair of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27 March 2017

Dear Russell

I am writing to inform you of the publication of the Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Report 2016.

At over €70 billion, Horizon 2020 is the largest ever European Union (EU) research and innovation programme and is providing real opportunities for Welsh organisations to be at the forefront of research and innovation. Our jointly launched White Paper 'Securing Wales' Future: Transition from the European Union to a new relationship with Europe' makes very clear the economic and collaborative benefits Horizon 2020 brings to Wales, and how important it will be for us to continue to participate in Horizon 2020 and its successor programme after the UK leaves the EU.

The report, which is now available at <http://gov.wales/docs/wefo/publications/170327-horizon-annual.pdf>, sets out how Welsh organisations have performed so far in accessing Horizon 2020 funds, the progress made on our key objectives to achieve greater success and a forward look of activities in 2017. The report also includes several examples of organisations which have benefited from this important EU funding source.

I am delighted with Wales' progress made in accessing funds from this very competitive programme. Last October I was pleased to announce we had achieved a significant milestone, with Welsh organisations benefiting from over €54m of Horizon 2020 funds. The annual report also highlights other significant achievements including participations among Welsh organisations having almost doubled since the last annual report, a high level of participation from Welsh businesses, examples of cross-organisational working and the effective use of Structural Funds to help build the capacity needed to access competitive funding sources such as Horizon 2020.

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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.

These achievements will be celebrated at our annual Horizon 2020 event in Cardiff on 30 March and will provide opportunities for further discussion with our partners to help us maximise Horizon 2020 in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mark Drakeford AM/AC

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