

Concise Minutes – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue: Committee room 1 and 2
and via Zoom

Meeting date: Wednesday, 7 December
2022

Meeting time: 09.32 – 12.28

This meeting can be viewed
on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/13062>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Paul Davies MS (Chair) Hefin David MS Luke Fletcher MS Vikki Howells MS Samuel Kurtz MS Sarah Murphy MS
Witnesses:	Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy Sioned Evans, Welsh Government Duncan Hamer, Welsh Government Andrew Gwatkin, Welsh Government Helen John, Welsh Government David Chapman, UK Hospitality Cymru Leighton Jenkins, CBI Cymru Sara Jones, Wales Retail Consortium



	Gwyneth Sweatman, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Committee Staff:	Llinos Madeley (Clerk) Sarah Bartlett (Deputy Clerk) Aled Evans (Legal Adviser) Gareth David Thomas (Researcher) Joseph Thurgate (Researcher)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

1.2 There were no apologies or declarations of interest.

2 Papers to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

- 2.1 Letter from the Chair to the First Minister
- 2.2 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd
- 2.3 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd
- 2.4 Letter from the Minister for Climate Change
- 2.5 Letter to the Minister for Economy
- 2.6 Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd
- 2.7 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd
- 2.8 Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

3 General Ministerial Scrutiny: Minister for Economy

- 3.1 The Committee scrutinised the Minister for Economy.
- 3.2 The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with further information on the discussions taking place with young people, following the publication of the young person's guarantee annual report in the new year.
- 3.3 The Minister agreed to provide a note on degree apprenticeships and their future development, following the publication of the Draft Budget.
- 3.4 The Minister agreed to share with the Committee the Welsh Government's response to the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's consultation on the energy business relief scheme, once available.
- 3.5 The Minister agreed to engage with the Committee in a longer term conversation about the future of business rates following the Draft Budget.
- 3.6 Due to time constraints the Chair agreed to send questions on research and innovation to the Minister for a written response.

4 Cost of doing business

4.1 The Committee heard evidence from the Federation of Small Businesses, UKHospitality Cymru, the Confederation of British Industry and the Welsh Retail Consortium.

4.2 The Confederation of British Industry agreed to provide further information on:

- the Scottish Government’s emergency budget review including the recommendations from its economic expert panel; and
- its involvement with the Development Bank of Wales and how often businesses within its membership access the bank’s support.

4.3 The Federation of small businesses agreed to provide further information on how the energy bill relief scheme operates for non-domestic energy suppliers.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting and for the whole meeting on 14 December 2022

5.1 The motion was agreed

6 Private

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence it had heard in the previous evidence session.

7 Committee forward work programme – Legislative programme

7.1 The Committee considered and agreed its legislative scrutiny programme.