

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

William Graham AM
Chair of Enterprise & Business Committee

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14 March 2016

Dear William,

Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Report

I am writing to inform you of publication of the Horizon 2020 in Wales Annual Report 2015.

Worth around £60 billion, Horizon 2020 is the largest ever European Union research and innovation programme and it is vital that the opportunities presented by this programme are maximised to help drive world-class science and innovation as well as sustainable jobs and growth in Wales.

The report, which is now available at www.gov.wales/eu-funding, sets out how Welsh organisations have performed so far in accessing Horizon 2020 funds, the progress made on our key objectives for greater success and a forward look to key activities for 2016. The report also includes several case studies of organisations which have already benefited from Horizon 2020.

I am delighted with the progress that has already been made in Wales in this very competitive programme with Welsh organisations already attracting over £26 million of funding investment. Furthermore, compared to the predecessor FP7 programme, Wales has so far increased its share of the funding invested in UK organisations from 2.07% to 2.46%.

I have seen first-hand the impact Horizon 2020 funds are making in supporting innovative ground-breaking developments and there are some excellent examples of synergies being developed between Structural Funds and Horizon 2020, which will help us to build capacity amongst organisations to access further Horizon 2020 funding. For example, the Welsh Government's Sêr Cymru II is rightly attracting interest from Europe, and we are sharing our experiences and best practice with our EU partners.

Wales needs to build on this momentum and this report highlights areas where we can work together with stakeholders across Wales, the UK and the EU to improve on our performance so far and achieve even greater EU funding investments for Wales.

In this context, I will shortly be publishing the Final Report of the EU Funding Ambassadors, who I appointed in December 2014 to help promote and maximise EU funding opportunities presented by the EU's directly managed funding programmes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jane Hutt AC / AM

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Minister for Finance and Government Business