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INQUIRY INTO PREPARATIONS FOR REPLACING EU FUNDING FOR WALES-CONSULTATION

Thank you for your letter inviting me to attend your committee's inquiry into preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales after the UK leaves the EU.

I fully recognise the importance of EU funds to Wales. The guarantees set out by the UK Government show the importance that we place on these funds, as does the position we have since reached with the EU on participating in the 2014-2020 EU programmes until closure.

I believe the UK's exit from the EU provides us with an opportunity to reconsider how funding for growth across the UK is designed and delivered, with our commitment to creating a UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Whilst I do not think it necessary for me to attend your inquiry in person, I would like to reassure you that this is a priority for the Government and we will engage with you at earliest opportunity.

Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP
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