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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair – Exiting the European Union Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Hilary,

Thank you for the invitation to present evidence to the Committee on 7th March on the impact of EU Exit on Wales and the Welsh economy. In the discussions, I committed to write to the Committee with details in respect of different countries where we have considered their migration models.

As I said in my evidence, and as set out in our White Paper, the Welsh Government's top priority is ensuring full and unfettered access to the EU Single Market. We recognise that increased levels of migration were a factor for many who decided to vote "leave", and therefore a concern to be addressed. The Welsh Government believes that the best way to reconcile this with the level of participation we seek in the Single Market is for there to be a stronger link between migration and work.

To that end, we have been exploring how migration is managed in those countries which are not EU Member States but which have a high level of participation in the EU Single Market (for example, Switzerland, and the EEA EFTA countries of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). Each of these countries implement certain controls on EEA migration (such as time limits to find work, and registration with the authorities) that are nonetheless in line with applicable EEA / EU legal frameworks on free movement of persons.

I hope that the Committee finds this information useful.

Best wishes,

Mark

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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.