



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 10745

Date: 3 October 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN reference 10745

Thank you for your letter to the First Minister and your request for information which was received by the Welsh Government on 7 September 2016. You asked for the following information:

Confirmation of any requests to HM Treasury or the House of Commons Library for information on the Tariffs (import and export) that would apply to all sectors of the Welsh economy in the event of the UK leaving the EU, leaving the single market and defaulting to the World Trade Organisation, most favoured nations tariff options.

In regard to your Freedom of Information Request, I have been asked to respond. Neither the First Minister nor his Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers have requested information on import or export tariffs from either HM Treasury or the House of Commons Library.

The Welsh Government is, however, drawing on a wide range of internal and external expertise in analysing the implications for Wales of the outcome of the EU Referendum.

In your letter more generally, you discussed a 'democratic problem' created by the EU Referendum, suggesting that deferring to WTO rules would be the only way to respect the British electorate. The Welsh Government respects the outcome of the EU Referendum. It is, though, our position that, whilst the UK will withdraw from the EU, full and unfettered access to the European single market for goods and services is a priority for Wales. With the European Member States as important trading partners for Wales many major Welsh exporters have expressed concern that the imposition of tariff and other non-tariff barriers would create unnecessary challenges for Welsh businesses seeking to compete with rivals based in the EU. We will engage constructively in discussions on the best way of achieving this.

As you indicate in your letter, steel remains an important sector of the Welsh economy and the Welsh Government continues to be fully committed to doing everything we can to support steel making in Wales. Our primary concern is for Wales' steel workforce, steel communities and the need to secure a long-term and sustainable future for the whole range of steel operations in Wales in view of the substantial value they deliver directly and indirectly to the Welsh economy.



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I would like to thank you for sharing your views with us. Whilst not every viewpoint will be reflected in the Welsh Government's position, it is valuable for us to receive a wide range of views to enable us to consider the spread of public opinion on these matters.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or

Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely