



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Stephen Crabb, MP
The Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee

20th April 2021

Dear Stephen,

FREEPORTS IN WALES

1. Thank you for your letter of 13 April regarding the progress made by UK Government to deliver a Freeport in Wales.
2. At Budget, the Chancellor announced 8 Freeports from 8 regions of England, as selected by the Secretary of State for the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, following the fair, open and transparent assessment process outlined in the Bidding Prospectus.
3. Our Freeport model ensures that the UK's high standards with respect to the environment will not be compromised. Freeports will be national hubs for international trade, innovation and commerce, regenerating communities across the UK; attracting new businesses, spreading jobs, investment and opportunity to towns and cities across the country. They will bring together ports, local authorities, businesses and other key local stakeholders to achieve a common goal of shared prosperity and opportunity for their regions.
4. We want to ensure that the whole of the UK can benefit, not just England. The UK government has been in discussions with the Welsh Government to establish a Freeport in Wales. The issues you raise are contingent on those discussions. However, given the upcoming elections, those discussions have paused.
5. The UK Government is committed to ensure that the economic and regeneration opportunities Freeports can bring to Wales can be fully realized as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Barclay'.

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP