



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Territorial Co-operation, Macro-regions and North-West Europe
Ireland and the United Kingdom

Brussels,
REGIO/D4/KK/mlg

Dear Mr. Mantle,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref Ares(2016)1420246

I refer to your email dated 21 March 2016 in which you make a request for access to documents concerning information on "guidance and support your organisation has given to the Welsh Assembly Government, or UK parliament, about the development of roads in Wales", registered under the above-mentioned reference number.

Regional and Urban Policy is the EU's main investment policy that targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.

The policy is implemented by national and/or regional bodies in partnership with the European Commission under the "shared management" principle. This means that the Commission, in this case the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, has the responsibility together with the Member State to conclude operational programmes which give the strategic direction for the funding over a 7-year period; it is then the responsibility of the Member State, through a Programme Managing Authority, to implement the programme, in line with the applicable legislation. The Managing Authority in Wales responsible for selecting and managing the ERDF projects for both the 2007 – 2013 and 2014-2020 programme periods is the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).

One of the priorities for the 2007-2013 operational programme in West Wales and the Valleys region is "Developing strategic Infrastructure for a modern economy", which supported sustainable transport and strategic infrastructure projects. For the 2014-2020 period, the operational programmes in both East Wales and West Wales and the Valleys include a priority to support "Connectivity and Urban Development".

I would also emphasize that my service has not given any guidance on development of roads to the Welsh Government beyond compliance with the relevant regulations. These are applicable to all projects and for all Member States receiving support from cohesion policy.

Details on concrete projects may be obtained from WEFO. Contact details are as follows:

Welsh European Funding Office
Merthyr Tydfil Office
Rhydycar Business Park
Rhydycar
Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1UZ

Tel. 0845 010 3355 (9am to 5pm)
e-mail: enquiries-wefo@wales.gsi.gov.uk

I trust that you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Deša Srsen