



Eich cyf/Your ref MIN/0005332/18
Ein cyf/Our ref IM/EM/00445/18

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
Secretary of State for the Home Department
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13 August 2018

Dear Sajid

Thank you for your letter of 20 July 2018.

I agree that the four Welsh police forces provide a valuable public service and the Welsh Government fully supports the need to ensure that police officers are well trained and equipped with the most up-to-date skills to carry out their duties.

In order to progress matters, I was very pleased to learn that the Home Office has recognised its obligations in this area and that you are providing an extraordinary grant of £600,000 to Welsh police forces to enable them to commission apprenticeships for police officers from 2019. The Welsh Government welcomes this commitment from the Home Office and fully shares the desire to find a long term resolution to this issue.

You will be aware that skills is a devolved matter and that, therefore, it is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers to determine how the block grant made available to Wales should be spent. You will also be aware that the funding made available to Wales has been reduced and that this has been exacerbated by the introduction of the apprenticeship levy employment tax. Further, I am sure that your officials have notified you that we have not adopted the electronic voucher system of funding apprenticeship provision. Therefore, no employer has a 'right' for their apprenticeship activity to be funded by the Welsh Government.

However, I also recognise the contribution the Welsh forces make to Wales, and I think it unfair that they should be disadvantaged during the introduction of the new, English based, arrangements for training. Whilst I have not changed our policy in terms of not funding the delivery of English apprenticeship standards to the four Welsh forces, I am willing to make a contribution to the set up costs associated with the new arrangements.

To that end, we will be providing a one-off grant of £400,000 to Welsh Police Forces that will be specifically to support activities such as trainer capacity, materials and a range of other related expenditure needed to facilitate these new training initiatives. When linked to your extraordinary grant, that will provide a £1 million budget for set up, which should be sufficient for purpose. This grant of £400,000 will only be made available in 2018-19 and it will be a condition of the grant that it cannot be used for the delivery of the new standards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning