

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Marc Wyn Jones
Meeting date: 17 February 2022	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 10.45	0300 200 6565
	SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

Private pre-meeting (10.30–10.45)

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on senedd.tv

Public meeting (10.45–12.00)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(10.45)
- 2 Provisional Common Frameworks: Air Quality, and, Chemicals and Pesticides – evidence session with the Minister for Climate Change**
(10.45–12.00) (Pages 1 – 11)
Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change
Olwen Spiller, Head of Environment Quality – Welsh Government

[Air Quality Common Framework: Framework Outline Agreement and Concordat](#)



[Chemicals and Pesticides Provisional Common Framework: Framework Outline Agreement and Concordat](#)

Attached Documents:

Research brief

3 Papers to note

(12.00)

3.1 Common Frameworks

(Pages 12 – 13)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair in relation to the publication of provisional Common Frameworks within the Minister's portfolio

3.2 Common Frameworks

(Pages 14 – 17)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Climate Change in relation to an update on Common Frameworks

3.3 The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2022

(Pages 18 – 19)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair in relation to the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2022

3.4 UK and Devolved Administration COP 26 meeting

(Page 20)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair in relation to the UK and Devolved Administration COP 26 meeting of 9 February 2022

3.5 Inter-ministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change

(Pages 21 – 22)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair in relation to the 17 January meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change

3.6 Inter-ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(Pages 23 – 24)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

3.7 Digital connectivity

(Pages 25 – 26)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales, the Wales YFC, NFU Cymru, FUW and the CLA to the Chair in relation to digital connectivity

3.8 Digital connectivity

(Pages 27 – 29)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from Communications Solutions Cymru (CS Cymru) in relation to digital connectivity and the costs of broadband provision

3.9 Review of the committee timetable and remits

(Pages 30 – 31)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Llywydd in relation to the Business Committee's review of the committee timetable and remits

- 4 **Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**
(12.00)

Private meeting (12.00–12.15)

- 5 **Provisional Common Frameworks: Air Quality, and, Chemicals and Pesticides – consideration of evidence heard under item 2**

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 3.1

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

MA/JJ/0453/22

Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair,
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

4 February 2022

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Following my letter on 17 December 2021 informing the Committee of the publication of the Radioactive Substances framework, I would like to share links to the published Framework Outline Agreement and Concordat for a further five common frameworks which fall within my portfolio:

- [Air Quality](#)
- [Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control –The Developing and Setting of Best Available Techniques \(BAT\)](#)
- [Chemicals and Pesticides](#)
- [Plant Health](#)
- [Plant Varieties and Seeds](#)

I understand the Committee has identified a selection of frameworks on which it wishes to prioritise scrutiny. The documents published to date will aid in this process and my officials also stand ready to assist.

There are three frameworks within my portfolio which are not included in this latest tranche for publication:

- Fluorinated Gases and Ozone Depleting Substances (F-Gas and ODS)
- Resources and Waste
- UK Emissions Trading Scheme

The Welsh Government continues to work with the other governments of the UK to ensure these remaining frameworks are ready for publication as soon as possible. I will write to the Committee again to confirm when the documentation is available for consideration.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

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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.

I am copying this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies, Chair of the Senedd Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd

Agenda Item 3.2

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Date: 10 February 2022

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your letters, dated 17 December 2021 and 3 February 2022 in relation to , drawing the Committee's attention to the publication of provisional Common Frameworks.

You will be aware that many of the remaining provisional frameworks fall within the remit of this Committee. It will not be possible for us to undertake scrutiny on all of these, given our other work commitments. On the basis of available information, we have agreed to prioritise scrutiny of the provisional frameworks for Air Quality, Chemicals and Pesticides, Emissions Trading System, and Resources and Waste.

We understand it is unlikely that all of four of the above will be published in time for our scrutiny session with you on 17 February 2022. If that is the case, we may wish to arrange an additional scrutiny session with you following their publication. I have asked the Clerking team to liaise with your officials on this matter, if needs be.

We are aware that the governments had been aiming to complete delivery of the Common Frameworks Programme in March 2022 ahead of the pre-election period for the Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Given the ongoing delay in the publication of some of the provisional frameworks, and the need to provide adequate time for committee scrutiny, we question whether this is achievable. The previous Welsh Government committed not to finalise frameworks until committees had scrutinised the provisional frameworks. *It would be helpful if you could confirm that this commitment stands.*

Although the Radioactive Substances provisional Common Framework is not one we have prioritised for scrutiny, there are several matters that we believe would benefit from further explanation. We would therefore be grateful for a response to the questions below.

General

Most Common Frameworks have been in operation on an interim basis since the end of the Brexit transition period.

1. Can you clarify whether the Radioactive Substances provisional Common Framework is one of these? If so, what assessment has been made of how effectively it has been operating?

According to the latest European Union (Withdrawal) Act and Common Frameworks statutory report (December 2021), the completion of the Intergovernmental Relations Review (IPRR) “will necessitate some small amendments to the Common Frameworks to reflect the role of new structures in the mechanisms of the Common Frameworks”. The review was concluded in January 2022.

2. Can you explain how and when the Framework will be revised to reflect the new dispute resolution process agreed as part of the IPRR?

Development of the provisional framework

Phase 2 (Policy development) and Phase 3 (Review and consultation) of the Common Framework delivery plan set out expectations and/or commitments in relation to stakeholder engagement.

3. What work has been undertaken to engage with stakeholders in Wales during the development of the Framework? How have stakeholders' views been reflected in the Framework?

Decision making

4. To what extent are you content that the Framework gives the Welsh Government and the Senedd appropriate scope to make law and policy for Wales within this area of devolved competence?

5. Can you clarify whether and how the Framework will impact on any existing or planned Welsh legislation or policy within this area of devolved competence?

International obligations

The Framework acknowledges that UK-EU decisions may be taken at various joint forums established by their new relationship.

6. Will the devolved governments attend relevant Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) meetings?

7. How will UK-EU decisions taken in devolved areas by the UK Government be reconciled with the Framework's commitment to consensus between the governments?

8. What opportunities does the Framework provide for increased Welsh Government involvement in the development of UK foreign policy in devolved matters within scope of the Framework? How does this differ from arrangements when the UK was a member of Euratom?

Resolving disputes

The Framework retains the right of each party to 'agree to disagree' on matters in scope. It also states that actions under dispute should be paused pending resolution through the dispute resolution mechanism.

9. What risks, if any, has the Welsh Government identified with this approach?

10. How will the Welsh Government notify the Senedd of disputes raised through the Framework?

Transparency and accountability

The Framework does not require the governments to update parliaments and stakeholders on how it is working, or to involve parliaments and stakeholders in its review and amendment.

11. How will the Senedd and stakeholders be updated on the continuing operation of the framework?

12. How will the Senedd and stakeholders be able to contribute to the review and amendment process for the framework?

The UK's radioactive substances regulatory system

According to the Framework, "...there will be no arrangements to reproduce notification and reporting requirements to the European Commission to test compliance and adequacy with respect to the [relevant] Directives".

The Framework goes on to state that "future assurance of the effectiveness of the UK's radioactive substances regulatory system is part of the wider discussions of future environmental governance following exit from the EU and Euratom Community". It also states governments are considering options and arrangements for the external verification of UK systems, as Euratom representatives no longer inspect and verify their effectiveness in monitoring emissions from nuclear sites.

13. What governance arrangements are currently in place to ensure the effectiveness of the UK's radioactive substances regulatory system?

14. Can you provide an update on the wider discussions taking place between governments on future environmental governance following exit from the EU and Euratom?

I should be grateful if you could provide a response by 3 March 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3.3

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llyr Gruffydd MS Chair,
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

4 February 2022

Dear Llyr,

I am writing to inform the Committee of the intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying The Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2022 by 8 February 2022.

I have received a letter from Victoria Prentis MP, Minister for State for Farming, Fisheries and Food asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The provisions could be made by Welsh Ministers in exercise of our own powers. The Regulation will extend to England, Scotland and Wales and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers.

The Regulations will be made in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 5(3), 30(1), 32(3), 37(5), 41(3), 42(3), 54(3), 72(3) and 105(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants.

The amendments will include pest measures requiring urgent and non-urgent implementation, prevent the introduction of plant pests, update import and movement requirements of specific pests and deregulate pests which no longer pose a threat to Great Britain (GB) biosecurity. As a result these Regulations will protect biosecurity and protect trade between GB and relevant third countries and Russia by introducing further protective measures for at-risk plant goods. The Statutory Instrument (SI) is subject to the negative procedure and is due to be laid before Parliament on 8 February 2022 with a commencement date of 2 March 2022.

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Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

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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.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for the substance of the amendments to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter. This ensures a coherent and consistent statute book with the regulations being accessible in a single instrument. I consider that legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

I have written similarly to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee (LJCC).

Yours sincerely



Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Agenda Item 3.4

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

9 February 2022

Dear Chairs,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that a virtual meeting of the UK and Devolved Administration Cop26 meeting taking place on 9 February. I apologise for the short notice, the meeting was only confirmed this week.

I will be representing the Welsh Government. The meeting will focus on the ongoing work to meet COP26 goals and what is happening in the lead up to COP27, which will take place in November 2022.

The Group will publish a joint communique after the meeting. I will also publish a Written Statement.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Agenda Item 3.5

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

9 February 2022

Dear Chairs,

I am writing further to my letter of 14 January 2022, and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, to report on the latest meeting of the Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change Inter-ministerial Group on 17 January 2022, which was focused on a discussion of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS).

The meeting was attended by Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth, and Lucy Frazer MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

As the UK ETS Authority we discussed the triggering of the UK ETS Cost Containment Mechanism (CCM) at the start of January. The joint statement by the UK ETS Authority – made up of HMG, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive – on the scheme's Cost Containment Mechanism (CCM) is available through the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-emissions-trading-scheme-ets-authority-cost-containment-mechanism-decisions/uk-ets-authority-statement-cost-containment-mechanism-decision-january-2022>

We also discussed the forthcoming consultation on proposals to develop the UK ETS. I was pleased to hear that progress was being made by officials from HMG, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive and I emphasised the need to consult as early as possible.

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Yours sincerely,

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Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change

Agenda Item 3.6

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Chair

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales

9 February 2022

Dear Huw,

Further to my letter of 4 January, and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was held on 31 January.

The meeting was attended by Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands, Scottish Government; Lorna Slater MSP (Chair), Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity, Scottish Government; Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland Executive; and George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government. Lord Malcom Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and David TC Davies MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales were also in attendance.

At the meeting we discussed Scottish Government's request for an exclusion to the Internal Market Act for single use plastics where I pressed UK Government to provide a timetable for decisions on this matter. The Northern Ireland Executive gave a presentation on their consultation for their future agriculture policy.

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Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Supply chains and labour shortages within the EFRA sectors was discussed, where I reiterated my concerns about shortages in veterinary staff, in particular, those needed by APHA and for future border checks at Welsh ports and the Northern Ireland Protocol, where I pressed for clarity on whether interim measures at Irish-facing ports would be needed.

There were a number of areas of AOB items including an update on the publication timeline of Common Frameworks, the Dimpleby Report, RCVS proposals regarding veterinary reform, seed potatoes, and the Brexit Freedoms Bill. Both frameworks and the Brexit Freedoms Bill will be substantive items at the next IMG to be held on 21 March 2022.

A communique will be published on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communique-from-the-inter-ministerial-group-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs>.

I am copying this letter to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee and to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Regards,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

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8 February 2022

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN



Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS

Digital connectivity in rural areas

I am contacting you on behalf of the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales, the Wales YFC, NFU Cymru, FUW and the CLA to highlight our joint work over the last year in relation to digital connectivity and our interest in being kept informed about the work of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee in this area.

In January 2021 we came together to focus on digital connectivity in response to poor connectivity issues raised by our respective members. Since then, we have undertaken 2 surveys to gather the experiences of people in Wales, held a webinar with industry experts and developed an Action Pack for our members outlining the current situation and sources of information and support available to improve connectivity.

We are pleased to note that the report 'Priorities for the 6th Senedd' states that the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee will assess progress on digital connectivity across Wales in the next 6 months, particularly in light of the findings of our recent survey where 57% of respondents rated their broadband as 'poor' or 'moderate' and 53% felt that they had been negatively impacted by poor broadband connectivity.

Our research published in May 2021 highlighted the digital divide between urban and rural areas. Over 50% of respondents from a rural area did not feel that the internet they had access to was fast and reliable and only 36% of those had superfast broadband. In comparison, 18% of their urban counterparts had access to standard broadband and 67% had superfast broadband.

Whilst 80% of participants used their mobile phone to access the internet, just 68% of those with a smartphone had access to a 4G or 5G mobile network. 57% of respondents from a rural area described the mobile signal in their house as 'unreliable' and 49% of those from a rural area stated that their signal was 'unreliable' outdoors.

Both our surveys have highlighted a high lack of awareness of the funding and support available to businesses and households to improve their connectivity. 75% of respondents to our research published in May did not know where to access support to improve their broadband connectivity. In addition, 54% of respondents to our recent survey did not know where to access information. The next steps of our campaign will explore what we can do to help cascade information to our members and wider communities.

In relation to the Welsh Government's recent consultation to move to an online livestock recording system, 50% of farmers and landowners responded that they did not feel that their broadband was good enough, in terms of speed and reliability, to enable them to complete livestock records online. 54% told us that they would prefer to administer/manage their business both online and paper and just 29% would prefer to do so entirely online.

We hope that our research findings are of interest to you and will follow your work on assessing progress on digital connectivity with interest. Please do get in touch if we can support the work of your Committee in any way or if you would like additional information from us.

Yours sincerely



Rhian Connick
Head of NFWI-Wales

(on behalf of NFWI-Wales, Wales YFC, NFU Cymru, FUW and the CLA)



Agenda Item 3.8

Correspondence from Communications Solutions Cymru (CS Cymru) to the Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee in relation to digital connectivity – 5 February 2022

Dear Llyr,

Our company is Communication Solutions Cymru (CS Cymru) and we are engaged in the business of advising, assisting, maintaining and installing rural broadband into individual homes and businesses.

The attached document is a recent quotation from BT of almost £200 000 for providing broadband to a constituent in the Llandbedr valley near Crickhowell. Can this be fair? We are aware of approximately 20 households, in this valley alone, that have received funding from a grant provided by the Welsh Government's Access Broadband Cymru Scheme (ABC Scheme) which has enabled them to obtain reliable fast broadband. The grant covers the cost of the equipment and the installation. Without the ABC grant these people would have either missed out or would have been quoted as per the attached example. We also know of others here who are in the process of applying for the ABC grant so there is clearly a need for the ABC Grant Scheme to remain in place ensuring that these rural homes and businesses are not simply left out. There are many other areas where this scenario is being played out which equates to thousands of constituents missing out on the opportunity of having useable fast broadband.

There is also another national grant scheme namely the Gigabit Scheme. The Gigabit Scheme provides broadband to communities which is obviously a good thing although there are frequently many constituents who don't benefit because, due to their isolated location, they have not been included in a nearby scheme. These are the very people who require the most urgent help because their current broadband speeds are usually the slowest and below 1Mbps. It is these people who are contacting us to ask for assistance in the form of faster broadband and we are currently able to assist them through your ABC Grant Scheme. Using the ABC Scheme's simple application process these constituents can have a fast and reliable broadband system up and running usually within weeks.

As good broadband provision is one of your major objectives and for the sake of your constituents, it is imperative that the ABC Scheme runs for the same duration and alongside the Gigabit Scheme. This will then serve a broad range of constituents whether they qualify for the Gigabit Scheme or not as the ABC Scheme is an excellent way to support those who don't, due to their remote locations. If the ABC Scheme were to be halted then what alternative solution would Welsh Government be able to offer to what would amount to thousands of their constituents who are not being served by the Gigabit Scheme when they look to you for answers? We look forward

to hearing from you with your response. If you have any questions or require any further information then please feel free to contact us at any time.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Hornung & Conway Staley.

Attached document:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: uso-helpdesk@bt.com

Date: 14 December 2021 at 3:36:39 pm GMT

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: uso-helpdesk@bt.com

Subject: USO Request - [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

We have received the confirmation of the survey price from Openreach. Here are the figures you need to know – and a breakdown of exactly how Openreach came to this amount.

Survey cost excluding VAT: £165,597.00

Survey cost including VAT: £198,716.40

This cost is calculated as the full cost of the network build and takes into account BT's contribution. BT's contribution is based on 70% of the number of eligible premises in your network build area multiplied by £3,400*. In your case, BT's contribution is £3,400.00 based on 1 (relevant) of 1 (eligible) premises in your build area. This amount has already been deducted from the above cost.

As the designated universal service provider for the UK (except Hull), we were chosen as the most capable and efficient business to deliver universal service upgrades, but these are expensive and there are significant engineering challenges. These are broken down below:

Planning and Survey- £0.00

This is the beginning of the process; the costs relate to labour and resource for Openreach staff and planners who will survey the area and plan the best network route

Civil Engineering- £110,389.90

Whether it's digging up roads and pavements, running cables overhead and trimming trees, or negotiating permission to close roads and dig on private land, civil engineering work can increase costs

Cabling- £58,607.14

This is the cost of fibre cables and the labour costs for laying it. The cabling would go from your local exchange to the premises included in the build.

Total Cost- £168,997.00

This is the total cost of the build

BT Contribution- £3,400.00

This is the deduction to the total cost of the network build through the BT contribution USO funding entitlement

Actual Cost- £165,597.00

This is the total cost of the build, following the USO industry funding deduction

We appreciate this is a lot of money – if you decide this is too much for you to pay alone, you can share the costs with others in your area who stand to benefit from this build. Alternatively, there are other ways of getting faster broadband which could work for you such as Community Fibre Partnerships, where you can take advantage of government vouchers, or satellite broadband.

If you'd like to go ahead with the network upgrade, we'll need to take payment upfront. You can get in touch with us on 0800 783 0223. We are open Monday to Friday between 9am-5pm. This quote is valid until 14/06/2022.

If you have any further questions on these figures, or want to discuss any aspect of this quote, please give us a call on the number above, within 60 days.

Many thanks,

The BT Team

*The contribution from BT has been defined by Government and Ofcom – the industry regulator – as £3400 per premise for 70% of eligible premises in the network build area.

For each premise in a build plan above 70% that registers their interest with the USO Help Desk on 0800 783 0223 BT will contribute an additional £3,400, lowering the excess cost to pay.

**All USO quotes are valid for 6 months, however in some cases your expiry date may be shorter than this time period. This is because we want to ensure we always offer the cheapest price possible and – where available and if more cost effective – we will give you a quote which someone in your area has received before, that is already within the 6 month validity period.

Agenda Item 3.9

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

**Climate Change, Environment,
and Infrastructure Committee**

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Elin Jones MS
Llywydd

3 February 2022

Dear Llywydd

Thank you for your letter of 7 January in which you request feedback to inform the Business Committee's review of Senedd committee remits and the timetable of meetings. The Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee considered your letter in its meeting on 20 January and agreed that I should respond as follows.

The Senedd is a small parliament with approximately 45 Senedd members to populate its committee system. Inevitably, there will be challenges in striking the right balance between bolstering the capacity of the committee system and ensuring the members who make up that system can contribute in a meaningful way. Ideally, there might be more committees meeting more frequently. However, this would compromise individual members' capacity. There is a limit to what can be achieved realistically with the current number of Senedd members.

As a Committee, we believe that despite the constraints under which we and the system are operating, we have been able to prioritise our work to ensure that the matters that fall within our remit can be considered in the time that is available to us.

We believe the current timetable offers some advantages, including the ability for the Committee to use a whole day of meetings to immerse itself in a policy area. We recognise, however, that not all committees meet in this pattern. We also believe that the flexible approach taken by the Business Committee to additional meetings has been positive. It will need to continue to respond to business, such as Senedd Bills. We would be grateful if the Business Committee could consider its approach to setting deadlines for the work it remits to committees. It should ensure that the time available reflects the limitations of the overall timetable, such as the frequency of meetings.

In terms of committee remits, we note there is an overlap in aspects of the remits of several committees, which risks some policy areas "falling through the gaps". The Business Committee should consider how better coordination of committee work programmes can be ensured to identify not only gaps but also potential synergies. In a similar vein, we believe the Business Committee should consider how to embed joint-working in the work of Senedd Committees – currently, arrangements are ad hoc and not as efficient as they could be.

Overall, we believe it is too soon to make fundamental changes to the committee timetable or committee remits. We have just started the third term of this Senedd; the committee system has been in place for less than two of them. Moreover, the system has mainly existed in a virtual world – it will face new challenges as committees transition to meeting in hybrid formats more regularly or in-person. It would be prudent for the Business Committee to delay any fundamental changes until it has a greater understanding of the nature of these challenges.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.