

Agenda – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

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| Meeting Venue: | For further information contact: |
| Hybrid – Committee room 1&2 Senedd and video Conference via Zoom | Robert Donovan Committee Clerk |
| Meeting date: 12 October 2022 | 0300 200 6565 |
| Meeting time: 09.30 | SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales |

Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

Public Meeting (09.30–11.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Paper(s) to note

(09.30)

2.1 Letter from Oxfam Cymru and WEN Wales

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Feminist Scorecard 2022



2.2 Letter from the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to the Minister for Finance and Local Government

(Page 3)

Attached Documents:

Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report on the Legislative Consent Memoranda for the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

2.3 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

(Pages 4 – 5)

Attached Documents:

The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Amendment) Regulations 2022

2.4 Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

(Pages 6 – 7)

Attached Documents:

Welsh Government's delayed response to the Committee's report 'Review of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021'

2.5 Letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

(Pages 8 – 9)

Attached Documents:

The Pests of Plants (Authorisations) (Amendment) Regulations 2022

3 Agriculture (Wales) Bill: Evidence Session 2

(09.30–11.30)

(Pages 10 – 35)

Dylan Morgan, Deputy Director and Head of Policy, National Farmers' Union Cymru

Huw Thomas, Political Adviser, National Farmers' Union Cymru

Dr Hazel Wright, Senior Policy Officer, Farmers' Union of Wales

Libby Davies, Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer, Farmers' Union of Wales

Attached Documents:

Research brief

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting

(11.30)

5 Private

(11.30–12.00)

Consideration of evidence following the meeting



29 September 2022

To: Chair of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee, Paul Davies MS

Dear Committee Chair,

Feminist Scorecard 2022

We are writing to you to share key recommendations from our Feminist Scorecard 2022 that are relevant to the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee. The Feminist Scorecard 2022, launched in July this year, tracks the Welsh Government's progress towards advancing women's rights and gender equality in six policy areas:

- Fair Finance
- Caring Responsibilities
- Global Women's Rights
- Equal Representation and Leadership
- Tackling Gender Health Inequalities, and
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Each area is rated using a traffic light system (red, amber, and green), indicating the level of progress towards equality for women and girls in Wales. Your committee's portfolio crosses several areas and we would like to highlight actions needed to improve women's economic situation in each area below.

Fair Finance

The research revealed that, compared to the last Scorecard published in 2020, Fair Finance has regressed from amber to a red rating. Some positive steps, such as hybrid working, have been made but overall progress has been undone by the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. The scorecard recommends that the Welsh Government should:

- Legally require and enforce all public bodies listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act to report on their gender pay gap
- Address the prevalence of women in part-time work through better investment into childcare and social care, so that unpaid care work truly becomes a choice
- Monitor and report annually on the effectiveness of the Economic Action and Employability Plans and Economic Contract in narrowing the gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps
- Legally require and enforce all public bodies listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act to report on their gender pay gaps alongside collating and publishing ethnicity, disability and LGBTQ+ pay gaps.



- Make it a requirement that all businesses in Wales accessing business support provide gender pay gap information in line with that of public bodies and ensure that they demonstrate a commitment to advancing equality for all.
- Encourage employers to develop and improve flexible working policies to suit the needs of different employees, including women with caring responsibilities, disabled people and working-class women

Global Women's Rights

We were pleased to see some progress in the area of Global Women's Rights, which retained its amber rating. However, urgent action is needed to support sanctuary seekers and those affected by climate change globally for Wales to be a nation of sanctuary and global solidarity. The Scorecard recommends that Welsh Government should :

- Conduct human rights and gender equality assessments of existing and emerging trade policies.
- Include Women's Rights and Global Solidarity with women in the Social Partnership and Procurement Bill.
- Commit to training international trading staff in gender equality, safeguarding and ethical procurement.
- Ensure that the potential of investments in female-dominated, low-carbon sectors such as care and education is adequately considered in the transition to net zero, both domestically and internationally.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to make the recommendations a reality, to ensure that women and girls in Wales will not be held back for many years to come. Please contact Fadhilah Gubari at Oxfam Cymru to arrange a suitable date for a meeting on fgubari1@oxfam.org.uk.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Rees'.

Sarah Rees
Head of Oxfam Cymru

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Fookes'.

Catherine Fookes
Director of WEN Wales

Agenda Item 2.2

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

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

Rebecca Evans MS

Minister for Finance and Local Government

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3 October 2022

Dear Rebecca,

Please find enclosed a copy of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report on the *Legislative Consent Memoranda for the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill*.

We would be grateful for a response in 30 working days, by 14 November 2022, or no later than 5 working days before the debate on the Legislative Consent Memoranda is scheduled, whichever is sooner.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Climate Change; the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee; the Chair of the Finance Committee, and, the Chair of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee.

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.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-LG-22734-22

Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Paul.davies@senedd.wales

3rd October 2022

Dear Paul

The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Amendment) Regulations 2022

I wish to inform the Committee I am giving consent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to lay The Common Organisation of the Markets in Agricultural Products (Amendment) Regulations 2022 on 8 November 2022.

The Regulations make various technical amendments to retained EU and EU derived domestic legislation relating to marketing standards for agricultural products.

The relevant amendments are summarised below:

Part 2 Chapter 1 (Regulations 2-4)

Regulations 2 to 4 make operability amendments to address deficiencies in retained direct EU legislation relating to marketing standards:

- Regulation 2 amends Annex 14 of Council Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 concerning marketing standards for hatching eggs and chicks and poultrymeat by inserting definitions of “relevant authority” and “third country” and replacing references to the European Community and Member States.
- Regulation 3 amends Commission Regulation (EC) 543/2008 on poultrymeat marketing standards to substitute a reference to a directive with corresponding domestic legislation, and to remove a reference to a provision which has been omitted; it also updates a reference to a European Norm standard which has been replaced.
- Regulation 4 updates the same European Norm reference in Annex 7 of the CMO regulation.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Part 3, Chapter 1 (Regulation 14)

Regulation 14 makes an operability amendment to the Hops Certification Regulations 1979. Regulation 3(1)(f) of the Hops Certification Regulations 1979 is now surplus to requirement due to provisions made by the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 which guarantee that hops and hop products can continue to be moved from Northern Ireland to Great Britain providing that they meet with requirements for sale in Northern Ireland. As such, this instrument operates to omit Regulation 3(1)(f) from the 1979 Regulations to ensure clarity.

It is normally the policy of the Welsh Government to legislate for Wales in matters of devolved competence. However, in certain circumstances there are benefits in working collaboratively with the UK Government where there is a clear rationale for doing so. On this occasion, I am giving my consent to these Regulations, which make corrections in relation to, and on behalf of, Wales for reasons of efficiency and expediency, and to ensure consistency and coherence of the statute book. The amendments have been considered fully and there is currently no divergence in policy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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

Agenda Item 2.4

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

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Lesley Griffiths MS

Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and
Trefnydd

6 October 2022

Dear Lesley,

On 27th September 2022, I wrote to you in relation to the Welsh Government's response to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's report 'Review of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021'. Thank you for providing a response to the Committee's report. However, I'm disappointed that the response was not accompanied by an explanation why it was submitted three weeks late, as requested in my original letter.

I appreciate that this is a complex policy area which requires deep and detailed consideration. Nevertheless, as the government was delayed in responding to the report, I'd have expected some communication from the Government, explaining its position in breaching the standard response deadline. I had hoped that this communication would have included outlining an estimated length of the delay and setting out a reason for the breach.

Receiving the government response this late is severely detrimental to scrutiny and is disrespectful to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. As a result, the Committee will be very restricted in its capacity to discuss the response ahead of the debate next week. In addition, the delayed government response restricts the ability of Senedd Members to consider the response and discuss it with their constituents and stakeholders.

Therefore, I do hope that you will reflect on the circumstances and ensure that government responses to Committee reports are produced within the standard response



deadline and, if there is a delay in the future, there is an explanation to the Committee to explain the circumstances around it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS,
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru

6 October 2022

Dear Paul

I am writing to inform the Committee I have given my consent to the Secretary of State to lay The Pests of Plants (Authorisations) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 in relation to Wales. I have laid a Written Statement which can be found at: <https://gov.wales/written-statement-pest-plants-authorisations-amendment-regulations-2022>

I have received a letter from Victoria Prentis MP, Minister of 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.

The current GB scientific authorisation regime issues authorisations which allow pests or plants, plant products and other material which would normally be prohibited, to be imported into or moved within Great Britain for official testing, scientific or educational purposes, trials, varietal selections, or breeding. Only designated quarantine stations or confinement facilities, which have been approved as suitable to contain the specified material, are eligible for an authorisation to introduce and store these materials. The amendments will reduce the administrative burden on authorisation holders and GB plant health services. Amendments will be made the Letter of Authorisation (LoA) to streamline the process whilst preserving biosecurity.

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. This is because 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. In addition, there is an urgent need to introduce this legislation, to protect biosecurity in Wales. I consider legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes, especially given the urgent nature

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of the Regulations, nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

These Regulations do not have implications for the Programme for Government. Preventing the entry of plant pests and diseases supports the majority of well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and will have a direct, positive contribution to the “a healthier Wales” and a ‘resilient Wales’ goals, together with associated impacts on the goals of “a prosperous Wales” and “a globally responsible Wales”.

The Regulations were made in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 8(5) and 48(5) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council on protective measures against pests of plants. The Statutory Instrument (SI) is subject to the negative procedure and was laid before Parliament on 3 October 2022 with a commencement date of 1 November 2022.

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

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Agenda Item 3

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