

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid: Committee room 4 Tŷ Hywel
and video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 29 March 2023

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Marc Wyn Jones

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddClimate@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 The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill – evidence from the Minister for Climate Change: part 1

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 1 – 37)

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Olwen Spiller, Deputy Head of Environmental Protection – Welsh Government

Roger Herbert, Head of Air Quality Monitoring, Evidence and Assessment – Welsh Government

Helen Rowley, Lawyer – Welsh Government

[The Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) \(Wales\) Bill, as introduced](#)
[Explanatory Memorandum](#)
[Statement of policy intent](#)

Attached Documents:

Research brief – The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill –



Summary of provisions – The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes)
(Wales) Bill

Break (10.30–10.40)

3 The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill – evidence from the Minister for Climate Change: part 2

(10.40–11.30)

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Olwen Spiller, Deputy Head of Environmental Protection – Welsh Government

Roger Herbert, Head of Air Quality Monitoring, Evidence and Assessment –
Welsh Government

Helen Rowley, Lawyer – Welsh Government

4 Papers to note

(11.30)

4.1 The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill

(Pages 38 – 39)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Llywydd in relation to the proposed timetable for
the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill

4.2 The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill

(Pages 40 – 41)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the First Minister to the Llywydd in relation to the Environmental
Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill and the World Trade
Organisation's (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement

4.3 Digital Connectivity in Wales

(Pages 42 – 49)

Attached Documents:

Update from the Welsh Government in relation to recommendations made in the Committee's report: Digital Connectivity – broadband published in November 2022

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

(Page 50)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair in relation to the Inter-ministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change

4.5 Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(Pages 51 – 52)

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 the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

4.6 The Packaging Waste (Data Collection and Reporting) (Wales) Regulations 2023

(Pages 53 – 54)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Minister for Climate Change to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to The Packaging Waste (Data Collection and Reporting) (Wales) Regulations 2023

4.7 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023–24

(Pages 55 – 56)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Finance Committee to Committee Chairs in relation to draft budget documentation provided by the Welsh Government

- 5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**
(11.30)

Private meeting (11.30–12.30)

- 6 The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill – consideration of evidence received**

- 7 Common framework for the UK Emissions Trading Scheme – technical briefing**

(Pages 57 – 66)

Attached Documents:

Research brief – Provisional Common Frameworks: Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

- 8 Annual scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales – consideration of the Committee's draft report**

- 9 Consideration of the letter from the Chair of the Finance Committee in relation to draft budget documentation provided by the Welsh Government**

- 10 Consideration of the Committee's forward work programme**

(Pages 67 – 73)

Attached Documents:

Paper – Forward work programme

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 4.1

Yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith
Environment, Energy, Wales and Infrastructure

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

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Right Honourable Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair, Business Committee

16 March 2023

Dear Elin,

Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill: scrutiny timetable

Thank you for your letter of 1 March seeking the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's views on the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill.

The Committee considered the proposed timetable at its meeting on 16 March.

The Committee is content with the Stage 1 reporting deadline of 14 July. In terms of the Stage 2 deadline, the Committee is content in principle, acknowledging that the committee timetable for autumn term has yet to be formally agreed by the Business Committee. If, once agreed, we foresee any difficulties in meeting the Stage 2 deadline, we will write back to you.

On a wider but related matter, in his July 2022 legislative statement, the First Minister committed to introducing a further two Bills during year two of the legislative programme: an infrastructure consenting Bill and a coal tips safety Bill, both of which fall within this Committee's remit. In order to meet the commitment, these Bills would need to be introduced before end of summer term. The ongoing uncertainty about the timing of the Bills makes planning our work programme for the remainder of summer term, and for autumn term, challenging.

It would be helpful if you could ask the Trefnydd to confirm whether the Welsh Government intends to introduce the infrastructure consenting Bill and the coal tips safety Bill before end of summer term.

Assuming both Bills are introduced and remitted to us with standard reporting deadlines of 12 weeks, the Committee would be scrutinising three Bills consecutively. It would be helpful if you could bear this in mind when proposing scrutiny timetables for the infrastructure consenting Bill and the coal tips

safety Bill. We will, of course, be happy to provide views on the proposed timetables for those Bills as and when they are available.

Yours sincerely,

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

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 4.2

Yr Eiddor Ardd / Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref FM /0880/23

Elin Jones MS/AS
Llywydd
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22 March 2023

Dear Elin

You will be aware the Senedd passed the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill on 6 December 2022. In the interests of transparency, I would like to describe the Government's intentions in relation to Royal Assent and coming into force of the Act.

The Minister for Climate Change gave evidence at three committees. I am copying this letter to the Chairs of those Committees.

The Bill engages the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement, which includes a legal requirement to provide a reasonable interval (usually six months) between the passing and publication of legislation which impacts on trade and its coming into force. This requirement is to allow businesses in WTO member countries to adapt their products to meet the demands of the new requirements. The Bill includes a number of substantive provisions which will commence the day after Royal Assent. Consequently, I do not intend to apply the Welsh Seal to the Letters Patent until the six-month WTO notification period has concluded in early June.

This is the first time since the United Kingdom left the European Union that the Senedd has passed a Bill which engages this WTO process. As a development of good practice, I will ensure that in future you are notified in writing about any other legislation which we expect to engage this this WTO procedure.

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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.

I happy to discuss this approach further with you when we meet later today. I am copying this letter to the Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Agenda Item 4.3

Welsh Government response to the Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee report on Digital Infrastructure – Broadband

Update February 2023

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that: The UK Government must develop public initiatives that ensure that the 1% who cannot currently access decent broadband can do so. The Welsh Government should engage with the UK Government on the development of new public initiatives to ensure they meet the particular needs of Wales. The Welsh Government should report back on progress within the next 6 months.

Response: Accept

Officials already engage with their counter parts in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on connecting very hard to reach premises across a range of fora including bilateral meetings and regular meetings with other devolved administration colleagues, and the UK Government on digital infrastructure issues. We also routinely respond to calls for evidence, for example, the recent DCMS call for evidence on connecting very hard to reach premises, for which there will be a further chance to provide a formal response to an anticipated consultation on this issue later this year.

Update:

We continue to engage with the UK Government across a range of fora on interventions to deliver fast and reliable broadband in Wales. This includes working with the UK Government to identify which premises do not have access to fast and reliable broadband through the Open Market Review and Public Review processes as part of the development of Project Gigabit in Wales. Officials have also undertaken a series of engagement meetings with the industry as part of the process to develop the project.

Officials also engage their counterparts in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the development of the UK intervention to tackle hard and very hard to reach premises, most recently in connection with trial sites in Wales where satellite technologies will be tested. An anticipated consultation by the UK Government on very hard to reach premises has not yet materialised.

We also continue to press for changes to the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme to meet the needs of Wales which has led the UK Government to increase the value of vouchers to reflect the cost of delivery in more challenging areas to deliver like rural Wales.

Officials are in the process of developing and assessing options to deliver a new Welsh Government scheme aimed at providing fast and reliable broadband in the hardest to reach areas of Wales, even though this is not a devolved responsibility.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government has stated its long-term ambition to see around 30% of Welsh workers working from home or near home. The Welsh Government should clarify whether it is satisfied that the current level of access to broadband in Wales is compatible with its ambition.

Response: Accept

According to the latest Ofcom statistics there is over 95% coverage of superfast broadband to premises in Wales. While we are satisfied that this will enable most people in Wales to work from home, we recognise that there are still premises in Wales that cannot get access to usable broadband. Ofcom estimate that the total number of premises without at least 10 megabits per second download speed is around 15,000.

While this is a non-devolved remit where responsibility for addressing the problem rests firmly with the UK Government, we have consistently stepped in to address those premises without a usable broadband connection. We currently have several relevant interventions including our £56 million full fibre roll out with Openreach which is targeting around 40,000 premises, the Access Broadband Cymru scheme and the £20 million Local Broadband Fund.

Update:

No further update.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should continue to fund projects that improve connectivity where improving levels of digital connectivity contribute to wider policy goals, such as its net-zero ambition.

Response: Accept

Our focus has been to increase coverage for all residents, businesses and the public and third sectors. Digital connectivity underpins a wide variety of policy ambitions and contributes to several of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act goals including a healthier Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a prosperous Wales.

Update:

No further update.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should seek reassurances from Ofcom that concerns are being addressed about the migration to

Voice over Internet Protocol. The Welsh Government should report back to this Committee on progress within the next 6 months.

Response: Accept

We are concerned about the potential impact of the migration to Voice over Internet Protocol particularly in relation to the impact of power cuts on the ability to make emergency calls or the proper functioning of life and limb services that rely on the public switched telephone network, including alert pendants and other alarms. Officials represent the Welsh Government on the cross Whitehall group of officials on the PSTN switch off and have raised concerns around the impact of power cuts at this forum.

We have also discussed our concerns with Ofcom on several occasions. Ofcom has established standards aimed at addressing continuity of services during power cuts. Officials will continue to make representations and seek reassurances that the switch to VoIP will not jeopardise the delivery of essential public services.

Officials have worked with industry representatives to host a number of seminars for officials and public sector bodies in Wales to raise awareness of the switch off and to highlight to them the potential impact both on public services and the sectors they represent or work with.

Earlier this year the Deputy Minister for Climate Change wrote to the Chief Executives of both local authorities and health boards in Wales to raise awareness of the issues and to highlight an awareness seminar being undertaken by Ofcom.

Update:

Ofcom in their proposed plan of work 2023/24 state that commitment to work with the industry to ensure that the planned transitions are done in a way that supports and protects customers. In the response to the consultation on the plan of work the Welsh Government has sought clarification on the detail of this commitment and assurances that Ofcom will exercise all available regulatory levers to ensure that the telecommunications industry cannot and does not proceed until the safety concerns and safety mitigations around loss of power are fully addressed.

The consultation response also suggests that Ofcom should undertake an appraisal of the risks from the planned industry migrations to identify gaps in preparedness, and to share this analysis with interested bodies including the Welsh Government.

Officials continue to represent the concerns of the Welsh Government at a range of forums including the cross Whitehall group on the PSTN switch off, the most recent meeting being held in January. Officials also represented the Welsh Government at a recent round table meeting organised by the Communications Consumer Panel focused on the impact of the switch over to VoIP was discussed.

Officials will continue to meet with Ofcom to discuss in detail concerns about preparedness for the move to VoIP.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should hold discussions with the UK Government, Ofcom, and providers to explore opportunities to increase sign-up to the social tariff. The Welsh Government should report back to this Committee on progress within the next 6 months.

Response: Accept

Officials in the Digital Inclusion Unit reporting to the Minister for Social Justice are exploring ways to raise awareness of social tariffs and considering if the parameters of these tariffs go far enough.

One option officials are exploring, dependant on additional funding, is to include awareness of social tariffs as part of the '[Claim what's yours](#)' campaign. Through this campaign resources could be developed working with key partner organisations, including our procured programme, Digital Communities Wales, Ofcom, Department for Work and Pensions and Older Peoples Commissioner, to disseminate key messages. Any additional work on the 'Claim what's yours' campaign to raise awareness of social tariffs, would need to target traditional advertising e.g. radio and television, given the target audience.

It was pleasing to note in a recent summit held in June 2022, chaired by the UK Government Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries, that several of the UK's biggest broadband and mobile operators agreed to a series of measures regarding social tariffs. These include allowing customers struggling with bills to move to cheaper packages without charge or penalty, agreeing manageable payment plans, and options to improve existing low cost offers.

The recent announcement by UK Government of a new system to simplify access to cheaper broadband is welcome, as this will allow people receiving certain benefits to ask broadband firms to check their eligibility for social tariffs. The system, to be managed by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), went live on 22 August and Welsh Government Digital Inclusion officials will contact colleagues in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) UK government to understand how the system will be monitored for success.

Update:

Officials have been working with DCMS (prior to the UK Government changes announced 7/2/23) to ensure resources being developed to raise awareness of social tariffs were shared through stakeholders across Wales. DCMS officials attended the Welsh Government Digital Inclusion Skills & Programme board meeting in November 2022 which included a roundtable discussion on social tariffs with internal and external stakeholders. This has also included ensuring the resources developed by DCMS are produced bilingually, which as of 20 February had been confirmed and shared with our stakeholders for raising awareness.

Officials are also in contact with Ofcom and current data on the uptake of social tariffs at UK level is due to be published in April/May 2023. This will help officials

understand if work done to raise awareness during winter 2022 has had an impact on the November 2022 reported uptake figure of 3.2% of UK households eligible.

On 29 November 2022, UK Government held a summit to coincide with the launch of the social tariff campaign to discuss identified the barriers for those not currently taking up social tariffs. UK Digital Minister, Julia Lopez, urged telecoms companies to consider the impact price rises may have on struggling households. Mobile and broadband firms meet with ministers to look at further support to help people facing cost of living difficulties - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

In addition, officials are aware that due to the current inflation rates, telecoms providers in March/April 2023 are due to increase prices for broadband and mobile contracts by as much as 17.3%. There is a need to understand the impact this will have on households already struggling due to the cost of living and whether there is an increase in those choosing to disconnect.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should undertake a piece of work to consider the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on its Digital Strategy. It should report back on the conclusions within the next 6 months.

Response: Accept

The Digital Strategy for Wales sets a clear vision and ambition for digital in Wales across 6 mission areas: digital services, inclusion, skills, economy, connectivity and data.

We recognise that the cost-of-living crisis will have many and far-reaching impacts on individuals, families, communities and businesses in Wales. Welsh Government digital and data officials will consider and report back on potential impacts across the Digital Strategy for Wales mission areas, as they deliver the actions in the refreshed [Delivery Plan](#) published in July.

The next meeting of the Ministerial Digital Policy and Delivery Group, which reviews delivery progress against the strategy, will be focused on their findings and assess how the cost-of-living crisis impacts each Mission area and the strategy as a whole. We will share the findings of this review with the Committee.

Update:

Officials have produced a report on the impact of the cost of living crisis on the Digital Strategy for Wales. This has been published on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should explain how its Digital Strategy will remove barriers for groups who are disproportionately affected by a lack of digital connectivity.

Response: Accept

The Digital Strategy for Wales, through mission two, makes clear our aim to 'equip people with the motivation, access, skills and confidence to engage with an increasingly digital world, based on their needs.

Through our '[Digital Communities Wales: Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being \(DCW\)](#)' procured programme, with an annual budget of £2million (funded jointly by social justice and health), we work with organisations from all sectors that can help reach digitally excluded people. DCW was designed to provide training and support to front line staff, volunteers and organisations to engage with and develop the basic digital skills of end users (citizens) to access and engage with services. A key part of this work is to alleviate some of the barriers recognised with digital exclusion such as motivation, digital skills, affordability and access both in terms of device and connectivity. While DCW is not resourced to directly provide devices and connectivity to citizens, it can provide loan devices to organisations best placed to do so. The contract commenced on 1 July 2019 and has been extended for a further three years to 30 June 2025.

In addition, DCW are working closely with the Good Things Foundation (a UK charity) on a [National Databank](#) initiative, which aims to provide free data for community groups to distribute across the UK, including the most digitally deprived areas.

Update:

No further update.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should hold discussions with the UK Government about raising the amounts available for individuals and businesses in rural Wales under the Gigabit Voucher Scheme.

Response: Accept:

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change wrote to his then counterpart in DCMS Julia Lopez MP to raise the underfunding of Gigabit vouchers particularly in areas where digital connectivity is difficult and expensive to deploy. In her response, Julia Lopez MP highlighted that BDUK will be undertaking a review of the scheme over the summer and that the funding limit will be one of the issues to be considered as part of this work.

Update:

The UK Government announced on 2 December 2022 that they were going to increase the standard maximum voucher values for residents and businesses from £1,500 and £3,500 respectively to £4,500 for both audiences to come into effect on 5 December 2023 for new projects.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that: The Welsh Government should hold discussions with the UK Government about the level of the cap on installations under the Universal Service Obligation with the aim of ensuring that it reflects significant increases in costs and the ongoing cost-of living crisis.

Response: Accept

We have repeatedly made representations to the UK Government and Ofcom dating back to the earliest design consultation for the UK Universal Service Obligation that the introduction of a cost cap would disadvantage the very premises in remote and hard to reach areas that the USO was meant to address, and that the value of the cap at £3,400 was appropriate to benefit those premises. These concerns have been borne out during the operation of the scheme, with costs being quoted to residents and businesses running into tens of thousands of pounds. We will continue to push for a review of the cost cap.

Update:

Ofcom plays a key role in monitoring the USO. In our response to the Ofcom consultation on its annual work plan for 2023-24 we have stated that we remain concerned that the Universal Service Obligation (USO) will not deliver connectivity to the hardest to reach homes and businesses in Wales. In particular, the premises cost cap still does not reflect the reality of providing a sustainable broadband solution in the most rural areas of Wales. There are still too many premises that fall outside of the scope of the USO. Ofcom and the UK Government need to come together to address this as a matter of urgency. To this end we requested a corresponding commitment in the work plan.

Recommendation 10

The Welsh Government should set out its position on legislating to require full fibre connectivity for all new-build housing developments. The Welsh Government should also explore how it can ensure that developers are not able to restrict homeowners from being able to access other providers.

Response: Accept

Officials are already developing detailed proposals to mandate the provision of gigabit capable broadband to all new build developments in Wales through amendments to Building Regulations. As the proposals are still in development, we cannot provide any more detail at the moment. The proposals will be subject to a public consultation, which is estimated to be published around the turn of the year.

Update:

A consultation on proposals to change building regulations to require all new dwellings to have a gigabit capable connection was launched on 3 February 2023.

Agenda Item 4.4

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JJ/PO/81/2023

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

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

15 March 2022

Dear Chairs,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that a virtual meeting of the Interministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change is scheduled to take place on 23 March.

I will be representing the Welsh Government. The meeting will focus on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and UK Net Zero Growth Plan.

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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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.

Agenda Item 4.5

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

23rd March 2023

Dear Huw,

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I wish to inform you a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was held on 6 March 2023.

I chaired the meeting, which was also attended by: Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands, Scottish Government; Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity from Scottish Government; Rebecca Pow MP, Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience, Mark Spencer MP, Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, James Davies MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, John Lamont MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the Scotland Office, Steve Baker MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office from UK Government; and Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary, DAERA in the absence of Northern Ireland ministers.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill which is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Each Government provided updates on their respective approaches to identify and categorise REUL, commending the positive engagement between the administrations in this area. They also discussed the Parliamentary legislative programmes necessary to retain, repeal or reform individual items of legislation.

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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.

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

The Scottish Government then gave an update on the progress of their Deposit Return Schemes and a discussion was held on Scottish Government's request for an exclusion from the UK Internal Market Act.

I then raised the current food shortages and food security, highlighting the need for collaboration on this cross-UK issue. We discussed the ongoing cumulative effects of issues such as the war in Ukraine, labour shortages and how climate change is having an impact on food supply. We agreed to discuss this item further at the April IMG.

Finally, the Scottish Government and I raised the lack of progress on various animal welfare legislation and requested an update in writing.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 April.

A communique regarding this meeting 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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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.

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

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JJ/2983/22

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
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10 March 2023

Dear Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Thank you for your letter dated 6 March and the Committee's draft report from Senedd lawyers that identified technical reporting points as part of their review of the Packaging Waste (Data Collection and Reporting) (Wales) Regulations 2023 ("the Regulations").

As you noted, the Regulations were re-laid in the Senedd on 14 February, as it is important that these Regulations come into force as soon as possible given they are part of a set of Regulations across the UK. The Regulations are required to introduce reforms to the management of packaging and to ensure Wales is part of the joined-up UK-wide approach being taken.

The Welsh Government does not knowingly lay defective legislation before the Senedd and these Regulations have been part of a coordinated development process to ensure workable and consistent law across the UK. As the equivalent regulations, requiring producers to report packaging placed on the market, are now in force in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland there is obviously a need to introduce the regulations in Wales as soon as possible.

However, given that your Committee's draft report has identified further technical reporting points with the Regulations, we have withdrawn them so that they can be considered before re-laying.

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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.

We understand that for the errors set out in my letter dated 1 March, the UK Government are planning to introduce an amending instrument to address these in their regulations, but these issues do not appear in the regulations in Scotland and Northern Ireland as they were identified and corrected before coming into force.

I am copying this letter to the Llywydd in her capacity as Chair of the Business Committee, to the Counsel General and Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely



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

Chair, Children, Young People, and Education Committee
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee

8 March 2023

Dear Committee Chairs,

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2023-24: Evidence provided by the Welsh Government

In our [report](#) on the scrutiny of the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023-24](#), we made several recommendations relating to budget presentation improvements. We also agreed to consult Committees on the documentation provided by the Welsh Government alongside its Draft Budget proposals, concluding that:

"Conclusion 1. We welcome the Minister's willingness to consider ways in which budget documentation can be improved. While we have reflected our views above, the Committee has decided to consult Senedd committees on their experiences of scrutinising this year's budget documentation and ways in which improvements can be made."

As a result, in reflecting on this year's budget scrutiny experience and in seeking improvements to the budget documentation provided by the Welsh Government at the 2024-25 Draft Budget and beyond, I would be grateful for the views of your committee in response to the following question:

What improvements would you like to see in the Welsh Government's Draft Budget documentation and subsequent ministerial written evidence?

Please make reference to the timeliness, quality and usefulness of any documentation and/or evidence received in your response.

We would appreciate responses by **Friday 28 April 2023**. Your views will then be collated and fed back to the Minister for Finance and Local Government, for her consideration in advance of the Budget Priorities 2024-25 Plenary debate that will be led by the Finance Committee and take place before summer recess.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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