

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee room 2 Senedd and video	Marc Wyn Jones
Conference via Zoom	Committee Clerk
Meeting date: 7 May 2025	0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.30	SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

Public meeting (09.30–11.00)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest
(09.30)

2 Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill – Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales
(09.30–11.00) (Pages 1 – 29)

Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

Alex Walters, Deputy Director, Public and Integrated Transport – Welsh Government

Hannah Dudley, Lawyer – Welsh Government

Catrin Dellar, Head of Bus Reform – Welsh Government

[Bus Services \(Wales\) Bill – Bill Summary](#) (PDF 951KB)

[Bus Services \(Wales\) Bill, as introduced](#) (PDF 356KB)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#) (incorporating the Regulatory Impact Assessment)
(PDF 2.3MB)



Attached Documents:

Research brief – Bus Services (Wales) Bill

3 Papers to note (11.00)

3.1 Bus Services (Wales) Bill

(Pages 30 – 35)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Business Committee in relation to the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill

Letter from the Older People's Commissioner for Wales to the Chair in relation to the Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill

Response from the Chair to the Older People's Commissioner for Wales in relation to the Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill

Letter from the Chair to Transport for Greater Manchester in relation to the Committee's recent visit to Manchester

3.2 Halting and reversing the loss of nature by 2030

(Pages 36 – 38)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Government in relation to the Committee's inquiry on Halting and reversing the loss of nature by 2030

3.3 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 39 – 44)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and

Constitution Committee in relation to the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meeting

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the Interministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the British Irish Council (BIC) Environment Ministerial meeting

Letter from the First Minister of Wales to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the Celtic Heritage Agreement

3.4 Scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales

(Pages 45 – 50)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to Sir David Henshaw, Chair of Natural Resources Wales in relation to the visitor centres at Ynyslas, Coed y Brenin and Nant yr Arian
Response from Sir David Henshaw, Chair of Natural Resources Wales to the Chair in relation to the visitor centres at Ynyslas, Coed y Brenin and Nant yr Arian

Letter from Jane Dodds MS to the Chair in relation to the Ynyslas Visitor Centre and the role of Visitor Centre Wardens

Response from the Chair to Jane Dodds MS in relation to the Ynyslas Visitor Centre and the role of Visitor Centre Wardens

3.5 Independent Commission for Water – Call for Evidence

(Pages 51 – 52)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Independent Commission for Water in relation to the Independent Commission for Water's call for evidence

3.6 Storm response inquiry

(Pages 53 – 65)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to the Chair in relation to the Committee's storm response inquiry

Response from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair following the 27 March scrutiny session

3.7 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26

(Pages 66 – 67)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Finance Committee to all Committee Chairs in relation to Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2025–26: Evidence provided by the Welsh Government

3.8 Restoration of opencast mining sites

(Pages 68 – 72)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair in relation to the Committee's inquiry on the restoration of opencast mining sites

3.9 Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

(Pages 73 – 77)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs in relation to the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

Response from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

Follow up letter from the Chair to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs in relation to the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

3.10 Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

(Pages 78 – 79)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chief Executive of Dŵr Cymru to the Chair in relation to changes in the executive leadership of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

3.11 The Advertising Standards Authority

(Page 80)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Advertising Standards Authority to the Chair in relation to advertising, ad regulation and the consumer protection landscape in Wales

3.12 Legislative Consent: Data (Use and Access) Bill

(Pages 81 – 82)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair in relation to the Committee's report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Data (Use and Access) Bill

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting and from the start of the meeting on 15 May 2025

(11.00)

Private meeting (11.00–12.00)

5 Consideration of evidence received under item 2

6 Consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

(Pages 83 – 98)

Attached Documents:

Legal note on the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

7 Consideration of draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Bus Services (No. 2) Bill

(Pages 99 – 102)

Attached Documents:

Draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Bus Services (No. 2) Bill

8 Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill – Order of consideration at Stage 2

(Pages 103 – 104)

Attached Documents:

Stage 2: Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill – Order of consideration

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 3.1

**Hwylfoddi Newydd Hinsawdd,
Yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Right Honourable Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair, Business Committee

21 March 2025

Dear Elin,

Bus Services (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2025 seeking the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee's views on the proposed timetable for scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill.

Unfortunately, due to the timing of your correspondence, the Committee has not been able to consider your letter or the timetable¹. The Committee is due to meet on 27 March and will consider its approach to scrutiny of the Bill in that meeting.

In the interim, I am able to indicate that, in principle, I am content with the Stage 1 reporting deadline of 25 July 2025 and the deadline for completion of Stage 2 proceedings of 7 November 2025.

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.

¹ The Committee did not receive your correspondence in time to consider it in its meeting on 12 March. The Committee had a long-standing decision not to use its reserved slot on 19 March.





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

By email only: Llyr.Gruffydd@senedd.wales
cc: SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

23 April 2025

Dear Llyr,

Scrutiny of Bus Services (Wales) Bill: concerns regarding consultation period

I am writing to express concerns about the short consultation period for the long-awaited Bus Services (Wales) Bill.

The closing date of 13 May 2025 for submissions of written evidence is only six weeks in total and includes three bank holidays. This is an extremely narrow timetable for an important piece of legislation. It does not allow enough time for groups, including older people's groups, who may wish to respond to meet and compile responses, especially when the Explanatory Memorandum runs to over 200 pages.

The current consultation deadline of 13 May 2025 provides little time for stakeholders to give the Bill the attention it requires. Issues relating to transport, particularly buses, are often raised with me by older people and I am very keen to ensure that there is sufficient time for meaningful consultation on the Bill and that older people's voice are heard.

I have accepted an invitation from the Committee to provide oral evidence on 22 May but was initially asked to provide written evidence by Wednesday 30 April. This would have been an even shorter deadline, which includes the Easter bank holidays, especially as my office would need to factor in translation time in order to be able to provide evidence in both Welsh and English. Translation services may be impacted by bank holidays and staff annual leave which also applies to my own team. It is not unreasonable for staff in many sectors to have planned annual leave during this time of year.

I am pleased that my office has now agreed an extension with the Committee, and that we will provide evidence by the consultation's overall closing date of 13 May 2025.

I appreciate that the timescale was not determined by the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee and that the Senedd's Business Committee gave the Committee 11 weeks to consider and report on the Bus Services (Wales) Bill, which is in line with their standard practice. I understand that such a compressed timetable has led to a short consultation period in order for the views of respondents to be reflected during oral evidence sessions with stakeholders and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales.

It is my view, however, that 11 weeks is insufficient to undertake the scrutiny process, especially on such a significant piece of draft legislation as the Bus Services (Wales) Bill. The timetable does not allow for meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including members of the public and particularly older people, and for responses to be submitted for the CCEI Committee to consider.

I am aware of the Business Committee's current review of the Bill scrutiny process. This review should reflect on the time needed to support and enable genuine and meaningful consultation, as well as engagement with groups who have an interest in legislative proposals. Future timetables should also take into account bank holidays and other factors that may impact on people's ability to respond. Changes to allow more time for consultation should be made to the timetable for scrutinising legislation as a result.

Older people often tell me that they want a voice in decision-making, but that digital exclusion often acts as a barrier to this, and it is important to recognise that over 100,000 people aged 75+ in Wales do not use the internet.

I was therefore pleased that the CCEI Committee is making changes to the consultation webpage to more clearly promote the other ways that people can have their say on the Bus Services (Wales) Bill than completing the online form.

The Business Committee's review of the scrutiny process should also result in action to ensure that all future scrutiny arrangements are improved to ensure that digital exclusion is not inadvertently built in. It is essential that citizens who do not use the internet, or who are not confident users of the internet, can take part in consultations and non-digital options should be of equal quality.

I would be very grateful if the CCEI Committee would take my comments into account as it prepares to respond to the Business Committee's review.

I look forward to meeting the Committee next month and ensuring that the views and experiences of older people on the Bus Services (Wales) Bill are heard and reflected in this important piece of legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Rhian Bowen-Davies
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

Rhian Bowen-Davies,
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

2 May 2025

Dear Rhian,

Scrutiny of Bus Services (Wales) Bill: concerns regarding consultation period

Thank you for letter, dated 23 April, expressing concerns regarding the consultation period for the Bus Services (Wales) Bill (the Bill). The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 30 April.

We recognise that the subject matter of the Bill may be of particular interest to older people, and we are keen to provide all interested parties with sufficient opportunity to engage with the scrutiny process. As you acknowledge in your letter, the Committee has to manage its scrutiny of the Bill within the confines of the timetable set by the Business Committee. The Committee has been given 11 sitting weeks within which to consider and report to the Senedd, which is in line with standard practice. This necessitates a shorter consultation period than would be the case, for example, for a policy inquiry where the Committee has autonomy over timetabling matters.

We acknowledge that the six week consultation period is likely to present challenges for those wishing to submit evidence. However, we are keen to ensure that this evidence is available in good time to test with witnesses, including the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, during oral evidence sessions in the coming weeks.

While the Committee is able to request an extension to the scrutiny timetable, doing so would have implications for its scrutiny of the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill.

The Committee has reflected the concerns you raise in your letter in its evidence to the Business Committee review of the Public Bill and Member Bill processes. A copy of the evidence is attached for information.

In relation to providing non-digital options for individuals to submit evidence, the Clerking team is always happy to work with individuals to ensure they are able to submit evidence in the format of their choosing.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to the 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.

Stephen Rhodes,
Director of Bus - Transport for Greater Manchester

30 April 2025

Dear Stephen,

Committee Visit to Transport for Greater Manchester

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for hosting the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee during our recent visit to Manchester.

Members greatly valued the opportunity to hear directly from TfGM about the challenges of bus franchising and providing an integrated transport system in Greater Manchester. The presentations and site visits were highly informative and relevant to the Committee's work, particularly as we prepare for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's bus services reform Bill.

I would also like to record my appreciation for the professionalism and courtesy shown by your team throughout our visit. The arrangements were excellent, and Members felt warmly welcomed.

Please pass on our thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the visit.

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.

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

Dr Andrew Goodall CBE
Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Government

24 March 2025

Dear Dr Andrew Goodall,

Re: Staffing and resources in Welsh Government for biodiversity and nature recovery

I am writing to you following the [Welsh Government's response](#) to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee's [report on Halting and Reversing the Loss of Nature](#).

Our report highlights a worrying trend of delays in meeting commitments made by the Welsh Government to support Wales' response to the nature crisis. This includes commitments to revise key nature policy documents and to develop statutory targets aligned with global biodiversity commitment. We are concerned that this may be due, at least in part, to a lack of capacity and resource within the relevant Welsh Government division.

Delays in the review of the Natural Resources Policy (NRP)

The Welsh Government is required to review the NRP after each general election. As we near the end of the fourth year of the Sixth Senedd, a review has yet to be completed.

In our report, we recommended that "The Welsh Government should explain the reason for the delay in completing the review of the NRP."

In its response, the Welsh Government stated: "*The Welsh Government, following the 2021 Senedd general election, decided to postpone the review of the Natural Resources Policy (NRP). This decision was made to allow the Welsh Government to focus on delivering Programme for Government commitments including four Senedd Bills / Acts and a range of actions which would lead to a positive impact on natural resources.*"

Delay in Publishing the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)

The NRAP is meant to set out how the Welsh Government will halt and reverse the loss of nature by 2030. Two years after committing to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), a revised NRAP has yet to be published.

In our report, we recommended that “The Welsh Government should explain why the revised NRAP was not published in May 2024, as anticipated”.

In its response, the Welsh Government stated: *“Given the tight legislative timescale for bringing forward the Environment (Governance, Principles and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill and its associated elements, officials' time has been prioritised to meet this critical deadline. Despite resource and capacity constraints, the Welsh Government has continued to collaborate across the UK to develop the UK National Biodiversity Strategy which was published on the 26 February 2025.”*

Delay in Developing Biodiversity Targets

We were concerned that biodiversity targets may not be set until 2029 – a year before the GBF 2030 targets, including the key 30 by 30 target, need to be met. The UK Government has already set biodiversity targets for England, and Scotland is also ahead of Wales.

In 2023, the then Minister for Climate Change assured this Committee that work on “scoping appropriate targets” was already underway.

In correspondence with the Committee, the Cabinet Secretary explained that targets would not be in place until at least 36 months after the Environmental Governance Bill receives Royal Assent. The rationale for this is that *“Creating the secondary legislation alone takes 12 months at a minimum (from consultation through to introduction), depending on the allocated plenary slot.”* Given these timescales, we were not persuaded by the need for a 36-month delay.

Finally, the timing of the Bill means that implementation of its provisions will be a matter for the next Welsh Government. This raises a fundamental concern that the current Welsh Government will not be able to implement its priorities during its term of government. Depending on the make-up of the next Welsh Government, this may mean that these commitments may never be delivered.

The need for a review of staffing resources

Given the numerous delays outlined above, we made the following recommendation:

“In light of the significant delay to the development of targets, and given that this is a priority of the Welsh Government, the Welsh Government should undertake an urgent review of the resources allocated to departments dealing with this policy area with a view to satisfying itself

that these are sufficient. It should report back to the Committee on the findings of the review within 3 months of the publication of this report."

This recommendation was rejected on the basis that staffing is a matter for the Permanent Secretary, working "within the budget allocated by Ministers and in line with their priorities". However, the evidence presented to the Committee strongly suggests that staffing shortages and resource constraints are affecting the Welsh Government's ability to deliver its commitments.

Given that addressing biodiversity loss has been identified as a key priority for the Welsh Government, I would be grateful if you could clarify how staffing resources have been allocated and adapted to ensure the delivery of these commitments. I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. What discussions have you had with cabinet members about the allocation of staffing resources in this policy area?
2. Can you provide details of the staffing levels assigned to support the development of biodiversity targets since the start of this Senedd term? How has this changed over time?
3. What specific resource constraints have impacted the progress of the development of biodiversity targets, and what steps have been taken to mitigate these constraints?
4. Given that a dedicated team has now been established, what additional capacity has been allocated to ensure timely development of the targets?
5. What processes are in place to assess whether staffing allocations within relevant departments are sufficient to meet the Welsh Government's biodiversity commitments?
6. What mechanisms exist to ensure that workforce planning within your department aligns with Government priorities and prevents resource shortages from hindering key policy developments in the future?

I look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0126/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

25 March 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that the postponed Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which was originally be held on 10 March will now be held on 31 March. I will be representing the Welsh Government.

The meeting is expected to focus on the circular economy, animal diseases, discussion on a potential UK-EU sanitary and phytosanitary agreement, "Not for EU" labelling, and the impact of the Internal Market Act on the EFRA sector. I will update you on discussions, and a communique will be issued, after the meeting.

We are also holding a quadrilateral meeting on borders with Baroness Hayman on the same day.

I have also copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs committee.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0135/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

31 March 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs meeting scheduled for 31 March has been postponed. The next scheduled meeting is due to take place on 12 May.

I have also copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs committee.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0137/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament

31 March 2025

Dear Mike, Llŷr,

I am writing further to my letter of 27 February 2025, and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, to report on the meeting of the Interministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change. The meeting was chaired by Andrew Muir MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs at the Northern Ireland Executive.

The meeting was also attended by Michael Shanks MP, Minister for Energy, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero at the UK Government, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, Acting Minister for Climate Action at the Scottish Government, and Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Minister for the Economy at the Northern Ireland Executive.

I have issued a [Written Statement](#) summarising the discussions. I am due to chair the next Interministerial Group meeting in Cardiff, which I expect will take place in early May and focus on the UK Emissions Trading Scheme. In addition, the Group agreed to explore the possibility of urgent meetings to discuss the decarbonisation of heat in buildings and the Climate Change Committee's advice on the UK's seventh carbon budget. I will share the details with you once confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0182/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

15 April 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to let you know that the British Irish Council (BIC) will be holding an Environment Ministerial meeting on 8 May. I will be representing the Welsh Government.

At the meeting we are expecting to discuss the activities of the Environment Work Sector between 2020 and 2024, covering Invasive Non-Native Species, the Asian Hornet Taskforce, marine litter, the marine environment and climate adaptation. We will also discuss the work sector going forward and a work plan for future work on invasive species.

I will update you on discussions, and a communique will be issued, after the meeting.

I have also copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.



Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

29 April 2025

Dear Mike,

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Celtic Heritage Agreement Annual Report

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to notify you that the Celtic Heritage – Cornwall-Wales Collaboration Agreement: Annual Report 2023 – 2024 has been published on Cornwall Council's website and is available [here](#).

Cornwall Council and the Welsh Government signed the Celtic Heritage – Cornwall-Wales Collaboration Agreement on 17 July 2023. The Agreement, which runs for an initial five-year period, builds on existing partnership working between Cornwall Council and the Welsh Government by encouraging further cooperation and understanding in areas of mutual interest and for mutual benefit. Four areas were identified as providing significant opportunity to grow the relationship between Cornwall and Wales. These were:

- a) Sustainable housing provision.
- b) Achieving Net Zero.
- c) Thriving rural economies.
- d) Celebrating culture and language.

This first Annual Report, co-produced by the Welsh Government and Cornwall Council, covers a longer than usual timeframe (July 2023-December 2024), to include a six-month initiation period.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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 have also copied this letter to the chairs of the following Committees: Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee; Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee; Local Government and Housing Committee; and Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Sir David Henshaw, Chair
Natural Resources Wales

25 March 2025

Dear Sir David,

Thank you for your attendance at the annual scrutiny session of Natural Resources Wales. Further to the meeting, I have been contacted by someone who has raised some questions that I hope you can address.

These issues are:

Firstly, at the committee meeting, you set out that the cost of running the visitor centres at Ynyslas, Coed y Brenin and Nant yr Arian is around £1 million a year. The representations I have received claim that it can be evidenced that Ynyslas is not loss-making.

Secondly, as you have acknowledged, the Visitor Centre Wardens do not have retail and catering responsibilities alone. I am told that there is "a job description issued by NRW which proves that the Visitor Centre staff's remit was much wider than retail and catering. Duties officially included ensuring safe public access to the site amongst many other things." NRW has provided reassurances that the site and paths will remain open to the public. I appreciate that you are engaged in a process to ensure that all statutory and essential functions are delivered by other staff. However, my correspondent suggests that, under the proposals, there would be no one to maintain that access, since the Land Management function is "just one individual with 2,000 hectares of land to look after". I am also told that it is the wardens who ensure that the ringed plover nesting sites are fenced off.

Finally, concerns have been raised with me about public safety due to the site being a red flag beach due to tidal currents, quick sands and unexploded WW2 ordnance which is regularly uncovered and safely detonated.

I would be grateful if you could address these issues that have been raised with me. It would be helpful if you could respond by **Tuesday 22 April 2025**.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Petitions Committee and to fellow Members of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

Your sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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

By email only: seneddclimate@senedd.wales

15 April 2025

Dear Llyr

Ynyslas Visitor Centre

Thank you for your letter of 25 March regarding Ynyslas Visitor Centre. I will deal with your queries in turn.

We have made our Visitor Centre accounts for the financial year 2023/24 publicly available on our [Consultation Hub webpage](#). They show that Ynyslas Visitor Centre made a loss for that year of £72,976.

Our Land Management and Commercial teams are working together to ensure we continue delivering our statutory services at the National Nature Reserve (NNR) in the long term, in line with our Case for Change focus on our strategic objectives. Although the NNR Officer at Ynyslas is only one individual, they are and will continue to be ably supported by a wider team of conservation and land management experts.

Now that our visitor centre services have ceased, the NNR will continue to be managed in line with the other NNRs we manage across Wales, which do not have any visitor centre provision.

Visitors to all our sites, including Ynyslas, are responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of any children and animals with them during their visit. Ynyslas is a red flag beach and is clearly labelled as such; signs are posted prominently along the beach and estuary advising the public of the dangers. Safety advice is also available to visitors on our website, for those planning a visit to Ynyslas.

In respect of ordnance, there are warning signs in place around the Ynyslas site along with pictures of the ordnance types that have been found, advising people to contact the

emergency services if they come across one. If an ordnance is reported, our Incident team will arrange for the area to be cordoned off and it will be treated as a priority incident. There is a 24/7 incident rota to ensure swift response, should attendance or other action be necessary.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope I have been able to address your concerns.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir David Henshaw', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sir David Henshaw
Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chair, Natural Resources Wales

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi.
Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

Jane Dodds

Aelod o'r Senedd dros
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru


—
Member of the Senedd for
Mid and West Wales


Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
Jane.Dodds@senedd.cymru

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
Jane.Dodds@senedd.wales

0300 200 6565 

@janedoddsWLD 

@DoddsJane 

/JaneDoddsWLD 

Dyddiad | Date: 31.03.2025

Pwnc | Subject: Closure of Ynyslas Visitor Centre

Annwyl Llyr,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the CCEI Committee to address a query made by a constituent following your meeting with NRW during the week beginning 10th March.

As you may be aware, the constituent has raised concerns that the work of Visitor Centre Wardens encompasses a wide range of duties beyond retail and catering. They argue that the closure of Ynyslas would be detrimental to the wildlife in the area. The constituent, representing the group Save Our Centre - Ynyslas - Achubwch Ein Canolfan, has requested an urgent meeting with the CCEI Committee.

Could you please reassure the group that the visitor centres are a priority for the Committee and that you will meet with them as soon as possible?

Yn gywir,



Jane Dodds MS/AS

Member of the Senedd for Mid and West Wales
Aelod o'r Senedd dros Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Jane Dodds MS,
Member of the Senedd for Mid and West Wales

30 April 2025

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your letter regarding concerns raised by a constituent about the future of the Ynyslas Visitor Centre and the wider role of Visitor Centre Wardens.

As Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, I have already received correspondence on this matter. I have raised it directly with the Chair of NRW, and the response is attached for information.

While the Committee recognises the strength of feeling in the local community and the importance of visitor centres such as Ynyslas, it is important to note that the Committee is not able to intervene in the detail of operational decisions of public bodies such as NRW.

I would like to assure you that the Committee continues to take a close interest in the role and work of NRW, including in relation to access to nature and the management of key visitor sites. The Committee will shortly publish the report of its annual scrutiny of NRW, which will consider these matters in detail.

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.

Sir Jon Cunliffe

Chair, Independent Commission for Water

26 March 2025

Dear Sir Jon,

Independent Commission for Water – Call for Evidence

Thank you for your letter, dated 5 March 2025, drawing attention to the Independent Commission for Water’s call for evidence.

While the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) is not in a position to respond to the questions set out in the call for evidence, I thought it might be helpful to share with you our *Report on storm overflows in Wales* (March 2022) and our *Report on performance of Dŵr Cymru* (February 2024), which we hope will be of use to you.

The issues raised in the above reports, which may be particularly pertinent to the Commission’s work, are summarised below.

Overarching Framework for the Management of Water

Measuring and assessing the water environment

On the matter of monitoring and reporting on the health of the water environment, in our *Report on storm overflows in Wales*, we highlighted the need to enhance existing monitoring arrangements with the aim of better understanding the impact of sewage spills on receiving water. We called for consideration to be given to the potential role of citizen science within these enhanced arrangements.

Water Industry Public Policy Objectives

Protecting the environment

As outlined in our *Report on storm overflows in Wales*, public confidence in the regulatory and enforcement regime for storm overflows is low. We emphasised the importance of ensuring that

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is able to respond promptly and effectively to pollution incidents, and to be prepared to take enforcement action when permit breaches occur. We raised concern about NRW's ability to properly carry out its statutory roles and responsibilities due to a lack of capacity and resources.

On the matter of enforcement action, our *Report on performance of Dŵr Cymru*, notes that NRW has come under criticism for its progressive approach to enforcement and its apparent reluctance to prosecute Dŵr Cymru for permit breaches. We make clear that although prosecution is, quite rightly, available to NRW, it should not be viewed as the ultimate outcome.

Ownership

The not-for-profit model

As outlined in our *Report on performance of Dŵr Cymru*, the company's 'not-for-profit' model sets it aside from other water companies in Wales and England, which are privately-owned. Dŵr Cymru benefits from not having to pay dividends to shareholders. Instead, any financial surpluses can be used to accelerate investment and provide additional funding for social tariffs. Nevertheless, the 'not-for-profit' model should not become an excuse for under performance. While no model is perfect, Ofwat's suggestion in evidence to the Committee of an 'accountability deficit' arising from Dŵr Cymru's 'not-for-profit' status is a cause for concern. We made clear to Dŵr Cymru that we expect its internal governance arrangements to be sufficiently robust to hold company executives to account and to drive performance improvements.

The Committee awaits the findings of your review with interest.

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.

Linea
Fortran Road
St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 0LT

Linea
Heol Fortran
Llaneirwg
Caerdydd
CF3 0LT

02920 740450
dwrcymru.com

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
By email: seneddclimate@senedd.wales

31st March 2025

Annwyl Llyr,

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence recently to the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on the impact of Storms Bert and Darragh on Welsh Water's operations. During the session, I committed to providing the Committee with more information on the adoption of nature-based solutions by Welsh Water.

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions offer a way to deliver broader benefits from investments, providing 'best value' by considering factors such as community wellbeing, greenhouse gas emissions, and biodiversity.

We appreciate the recent emphasis placed on nature-based solutions in the Welsh Government's Strategic Policy Statement and Ofwat's PR24 Final Methodology which has allowed us to adopt such solutions in AMP8 as part of our final Business Plan for 2025-30. Our goal is to scale up the use of nature-based solutions over the next AMP periods. The planned environmental investment programme will have a significantly greater positive impact on Wales if it is delivered primarily through nature-based solutions rather than traditional 'grey' or 'concrete' solutions.

We were early adopters of nature-based solutions in the water industry, notably with the RainScape approach designed to slow down and mitigate stormwater flows into the sewers in the Llanelli area, which were then overflowing into the Loughour Estuary. We invested £115 million across Llanelli and Gowerton in our innovative RainScape work between 2012 and 2020, completing 36 RainScape projects in the Llanelli. This involved laying around 14 miles of new pipework and kerb drainage, tunnelling just under one mile underground to create rainwater sewers and planting almost 10,000 plants and trees in swales, planters and basins. This has helped ensure that we no longer pump and treat around 1.5m³ of rainwater every year.

Having learned from the international examples of surface water schemes in Malmö, (Sweden) and Portland (Oregon, USA), we have created our own range of surface water or RainScape solutions that have been used in Llanelli. These include:

- **Basins and Planters:** Shallow landscaped basins that capture the surface water runoff from roofs and road and store and treat the surface water. The water filters through the plants within the basin, removing contaminants before being released into the soil or the sewer network. These can be small, and fitted to individual downpipes, or they can be larger, and used within road schemes.
- **Swales:** Long, shallow, landscaped channels that reduce the speed of surface water - cleaning it and where possible allowing it to gradually infiltrate into the soil. Where it is not possible for the water to infiltrate the water into the ground, the swales gradually return the water into the sewer network at a slower rate.
- **Porous paving:** Paving that is designed to allow surface water to pass through it, rather than over it into nearby drains. Porous paving comes in a variety of appealing designs.

- **Filter strip:** Filter strips are strips of ground where water running off a site can pass through it, allowing some or all of it to soak away. The rest often enters a swale or another sustainable urban drainage system.
- **Grass channels:** These are strips of grass that can be installed in side streets and back alleys of terraces to provide a permeable surface for water to soak through.
- **Geocellular storage:** Geocellular systems can be used to control and manage surface water runoff either as a soakaway or as a storage tank. These can be installed beneath roads and kerbs and help to reduce the speed at which surface water enters the sewer network.

Another example of how we are using nature-based solutions can be seen in Pont-y-Felin near Pontypool where the approach is being used to address the impact of a storm overflow (SO) on the nearby Afon Lwyd. This is the first of its kind in the UK and the solution consists of storm discharges first passing through a new mechanical screen after which flows gravitate first through a series of aerated reed beds and then through constructed wetlands to provide natural treatment before releasing to the river. The £13 million investment will deliver a wetland habitat for aquatic life, enhanced biodiversity, new woodland areas and improved public amenity through footpaths and natural play spaces.

On this occasion, a traditional 'grey' solution would have meant increasing the capacity of storm water storage to 22,000 m³. At a financial cost of £56m and a whole life carbon cost of 3000 tonnes CO₂e, this was unaffordable and unsustainable. This solution would not only remove harmful pollutants from the CSO and improve river water quality but would also provide local amenity and biodiversity benefits. It is a great example of focussing on tackling environment harm than just storm overflow "spill" numbers.

Our experience with RainScope and other projects therefore shows that nature-based solutions can deliver major benefits and greater overall value for our customers and the environment. However, they do take considerable time to develop and implement. While they can provide good value and resilience over the long term, they may be more expensive initially. Furthermore, they are often more complex and, in some cases, involve greater uncertainty of outcome. The temptation for companies and regulators alike is, therefore, to default to traditional grey solutions. This needs to be avoided if we are to meet our commitments to achieving Net Zero.

There is real opportunity to use nature-based solutions in supporting the work in reducing Phosphorous the biggest cause of SAC rivers in Wales not meeting the required water quality.

To pursue opportunities for nature-based and collaborative solutions, we will continue with major trials and engage in discussions with regulators to develop regulatory guidance that complies with Welsh policy and, in some cases, provides a counterpart to regulatory guidance already enabled in England.

We are also hosting a Rivers Improvement Codelivery event alongside Afonydd Cymru and Wildlife Trusts Wales on 10th April for which the Deputy First Minister will be a keynote speaker. The main objective is to identify specific projects, locations and nature-based solutions that can be implemented in partnership, and to understand enablers and barriers to this type of collaboration. We will provide information on the next five years of our planned capital investment, and we are seeking ideas from various organisations to develop practical solutions and determine how we can achieve more for the environment with our planned investment and ways to enable nature's recovery.

Over the longer term, we expect nature-based solutions to represent a much larger proportion of our investment plans as the evidence regarding the costs, resilience, benefits, and risks of different approaches becomes stronger.

I hope this information is useful but should Committee Members wish to visit one of these sites or if you need further detail, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Llŷr Gruffydd AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN
Trwy e-bost: seneddclimate@senedd.wales

31 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Llŷr,

Diolch i chi am y cyfle i gyflwyno tystiolaeth gerbron Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith y Senedd ar effaith Stormydd Bert a Darragh ar weithrediadau Dŵr Cymru yn ddiweddar. Yn ystod y sesiwn, fe addewais i ddarparu rhagor o wybodaeth am sut mae Dŵr Cymru'n mabwysiadu atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur ar gyfer y Pwyllgor.

Atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur

Ffordd o ddarparu buddion ehangach o fuddsoddiadau, a darparu 'gwerth gorau' trwy gymryd ffactorau fel llesiant y gymuned, allyriannau nwyon tŷ gwydr a bioamrywiaeth i ystyriaeth yw atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur. Rydyn ni'n gwerthfawrogi'r pwyslais a roddwyd ar atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur yn Natganiad Polisi Strategol diweddar Llywodraeth Cymru a Methodoleg Derfynol Ofwat ar gyfer PR24, sydd wedi caniatáu i ni fabwysiadu atebion o'r fath yn AMP8 yn rhan o'n Cynllun Busnes ar gyfer 2025-30. Ein nod yw ehangu'r defnydd o atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur dros gyfnodau'r AMPau nesaf. Caiff y rhaglen buddsoddi amgylcheddol sydd ar y gweill effaith fwy llesol o lawer yng Nghymru os yw'n caiff ei chyflawni trwy atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur yn bennaf, yn hytrach na thrwy atebion 'llwyd' neu 'goncrit' traddodiadol.

Fe fuom ni'n flaengar yn y diwydiant dŵr wrth fabwysiadu atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur, yn arbennig yn achos GlawLif, ein dull o weithredu a ddyluniwyd i arafu a lliniaru llif dŵr storm i mewn i'r carthffosydd yn ardal Llanelli, oedd yn rhyddhau wedyn i aber afon Llŵchwr. Fe fuddsoddon ni £115 miliwn yn ein gwaith GlawLif arloesol ar draws Llanelli a Thre-gŵyr rhwng 2012 a 2020, gan gwblhau 36 o brosiectau GlawLif i gyd. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys gosod tua 14 milltir o bibellau newydd a chyrbiau draenio, twnelu bron i filltir o dan y ddaear i greu carthffosydd dŵr glaw, a phlannu bron i 10,000 o blanhigion a choed mewn pantiau, cafnau plannu a basnau. Mae hyn wedi helpu i sicrhau nad oes angen i ni bwmpio a thrin tua 1.5m³ o ddŵr glaw bob blwyddyn mwyach.

Ar ôl dysgu o esiamplau rhyngwladol o gynlluniau dŵr wyneb ym Malmö (Sweden), a Portland (Oregon, UDA), fe greon ni ein hatebion ein hunain i ddelio â dŵr wyneb, sef yr atebion GlawLif a ddefnyddiwyd yn Llanelli. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- **Basnau a Chafnau Plannu:** Basnau bas sy'n asio i'r dirwedd sy'n casglu'r dŵr ffo sy'n dod oddi ar doeau a ffyrdd, gan storio a thrin y dŵr wyneb. Mae'r dŵr yn hidlo trwy'r planhigion o fewn y basn, gan dynnu'r halogyddion, cyn cael ei ryddhau i'r pridd neu i'r rhwydwaith o garthffosydd. Gall y rhain fod yn fach, a chael eu gosod ar bibellau draenio unigol, neu'n fwy i'w defnyddio ar gynlluniau ffyrdd.
- **Pantiau:** Sianeli hir a bas wedi eu tirweddu sy'n arafu llif y dŵr wyneb – gan ei lanhau a gadael iddo ymdreiddio'n raddol i'r pridd lle bo modd. Os nad oes modd i'r dŵr hidlo i lawr i'r ddaear, mae'r pantiau'n dychwelyd y dŵr yn raddol bach i'r rhwydwaith o garthffosydd.

- **Palmentydd hydraiddd:** cerrig palmant sydd wedi eu dylunio i ganiatáu i ddŵr wyneb basio drwyddynt yn hytrach na drostynt ac i mewn i ddraeniau cyfagos. Mae palmentydd hydraiddd yn dod mewn amrywiaeth o ddyluniadau deniadol.
- **Lleiniau hidlo:** lleiniau o dir lle mae dŵr sy'n llifo oddi ar safle'n gallu pasio drwyddynt gan ganiatáu i rywffaint, neu'r holl ddŵr hidlo i'r ddaear. Mae'r gweddill yn aml yn mynd i bant neu system draenio trefol gynaliadwy arall.
- **Sianeli glaswellt:** lleiniau o laswellt y gellir eu gosod mewn strydoedd ymyl a lonydd cefn terasau o dai er mwyn darparu arwyneb hydraiddd i'r dŵr hidlo drwyddo.
- **Storfeydd geogellol:** Gellir defnyddio systemau geogellol i ffrwyno a rheoli dŵr wyneb ffo, naill ai ar ffurf ffosydd cerrig neu danciau storio. Gellir gosod y rhain o dan ffyrdd a chyrbiau ac maen nhw'n helpu i arafu llif y dŵr wyneb i mewn i'r rhwydwaith o garthffosydd.

Gellir gweld esiampl arall o sut rydyn ni'n defnyddio atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur ym Mhont-y-felin ger Pont-y-pŵl, lle'r ydyn ni'n defnyddio'r dull yma o weithredu i fynd i'r afael ag effaith gorlif storm (ISO) ar Afon Lwyd sydd gerllaw. Hwn yw'r fenter gyntaf o'i math yn y DU ac mae'r ateb yn cynnwys pasio gollyngiadau storm trwy sgrin fecanyddol newydd yn gyntaf, cyn i'r llif lifo'n naturiol trwy gyfres o welyau brwyn awyredig ac ymlaen i wlypdiroedd adeiledig lle er mwyn i'r dŵr gael triniaeth naturiol cyn ei ryddhau i'r afon. Bydd y buddsoddiad £13 miliwn yma'n creu cynefin gwlypdir ar gyfer bywyd dyfrol, gan gyfoethogi bioamrywiaeth, creu ardaloedd coetir newydd, a gwella amwynder cyhoeddus ar ffurf llwybrau cerdded a mannau chwarae naturiol. Y tro yma, byddai ateb 'llwyd' traddodiadol wedi golygu cynyddu capasiti'r storfa dŵr storm i 22,000m³. Gyda chost ariannol o £56m a chost carbon oes gyfan o 3000 tonnelli o CO₂e, ni fyddai hynny wedi bod yn fforddiadwy nac yn gynaliadwy. Yn ogystal â thynnu llygryddion niweidiol o'r CSO a gwella ansawdd dŵr yr afon, bydd yr ateb yma'n cynnig manteision o ran amwynder a bioamrywiaeth leol hefyd. Mae hi'n esiampl ragorol o ganolbwyntio ar daclo niwed amgylcheddol yn hytrach na nifer y troeon y mae gorlifoedd storm yn "rhyddhau" yn unig.

Mae ein profiad gyda GlawLif a phrosiectau eraill felly'n dangos bod atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur yn gallu cyflawni manteision aruthrol a gwell gwerth ar gyfer ein cwsmeriaid a'r amgylchedd yn gyffredinol. Fodd bynnag, maen nhw'n cymryd tipyn o amser i'w datblygu a'u rhoi ar waith. Er eu bod nhw'n gallu darparu gwerth da a gwynwch yn y tymor hir, maen nhw'n gallu bod yn fwy drud at y cychwyn. Yn ogystal, maen nhw'n aml yn fwy cymhleth, ac mewn rhai achosion, yn cynnwys mwy o ansicrwydd o ran deilliannau. Felly'r demtasiwn i gwmnïau a rheoleiddwyr fel ei gilydd yw troi'n ddiodyn at atebion llwyd traddodiadol. Mae angen osgoi gwneud hyn er mwyn i ni gyflawni ein rhwymedigaethau i gyflawni Sero Net.

Mae yna gyfle gwirioneddol i ddefnyddio atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur i gynorthwyo'r gwaith o leihau Ffosfforws, sef y prif reswm pam fod afonydd ACA yng Nghymru'n methu â chyflawni'r safonau angenrheidiol o ran ansawdd dŵr. Er mwyn mynd ar drywydd atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur ac atebion cydweithredol, byddwn ni'n parhau â'n treialon pwysig ac yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r rheoleiddwyr i ddatblygu canllawiau rheoliadol sy'n cydymffurfio â pholisïau Cymru, ac mewn rhai achosion yn cyd-fynd â'r canllawiau rheoliadol sydd eisoes yn gweithredu yn Lloegr.

Byddwn ni'n cynnal digwyddiad Cyd-gyflawni Gwelliannau i Afonydd ochr yn ochr ag Afonydd Cymru a'r Ymddiriedolaethau Bywyd ar 10 Ebrill, lle bydd y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog yn traddodi'r prif anerchiad. Y prif amcan yw dod o hyd i brosiectau, lleoliadau ac atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur y gellir eu rhoi ar waith mewn partneriaeth, a deall beth sy'n hwyluso ac yn rhwystro cydweithio o'r math yma. Byddwn ni'n darparu gwybodaeth ar bum mlynedd nesaf ein buddsoddiad cyfalaf cynlluniedig, ac rydyn ni'n chwilio am syniadau gan amryw o sefydliadau i ddatblygu atebion ymarferol a chanfod sut y gallwn ni gyflawni rhagor ar gyfer yr amgylchedd a ffyrdd o hwyluso adferiad byd natur trwy ein buddsoddiadau.

Yn y tymor hwy, rydyn ni'n disgwyl i atebion sy'n seiliedig ar natur gyfrif am gyfran uwch o lawer o'n cynlluniau buddsoddi wrth i'r dystiolaeth o ran y costau, gwynwch, buddion, a risgiau o wahanol ddulliau o weithredu ddod yn gryfach.

Rwy'n gobeithio bod y wybodaeth yma'n ddefnyddiol i chi, ond os hoffai Aelodau'r Pwyllgor ymweld ag un o'r safleoedd hyn angen rhagor o fanylion, croeso i chi gysylltu i drefnu hynny.

Yn gywir,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Christie'.

Ian Christie

Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Dŵr, Cynllunio Asedau a Chyflawni Cyfalaf

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0195/25

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

25 April 2025

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you to the Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee for the valuable discussions during my general scrutiny and storm response inquiry sessions on 27 March. I welcome the opportunity to respond to those questions which we did not have time for during the session itself. I have answered each question in turn as follows.

General scrutiny session

1. *What action is being taken to prevent the loss of hedgerow and ancient hedgerow as a result of housing development?*

I refer the Committee to [Planning Policy Wales 12](#) (PPW) which sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government and includes a strong framework for the protection of hedgerows, including ancient hedgerows. Planning policy recognises the significant importance of hedgerows for biodiversity. PPW notes that they are crucial connecting habitats for resilient ecological networks and contribute significantly to landscape character, culture, heritage, sense of place, air quality, and local climate moderation.

It is important that biodiversity and resilience considerations are taken into account at an early stage when proposing or considering development proposals. The Welsh Government expects planning authorities to be proactive and embed appropriate mechanisms and policies to protect against biodiversity loss and secure a net benefit for biodiversity. Securing a net benefit for biodiversity within the context of PPW requires a pragmatic response to the specific circumstances of the site. Working through the step wise approach (PPW para 6.4.15 refers), ancient hedgerows are listed as an irreplaceable habitat, which means that proposals that would result in the loss of an irreplaceable habitat are as a matter of principle to be excluded from site searches and the irreplaceable habitat should be safeguarded.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

For wider hedgerow protection, PPW sets out that the permanent removal of hedgerows will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined public benefits. Where hedgerows are proposed to be removed as part of a development, local planning authorities must follow the step wise approach, with the objective of avoiding loss as the first priority.

2. *The Beyond Recycling Strategy set four 2025 targets: a 26% reduction in total waste, zero waste to landfill, a 50% reduction in avoidable food waste, and a 70% recycling rate. How many of these targets are you on track to achieve this year?*

26% reduction in total waste:

Information about the levels of waste is collected through different data sets for the different waste streams – household, industrial, commercial, and construction and demolition. The latest available data is for different years (2018¹ for industrial and commercial, 2019² for construction and demolition, and 2023-24³ for household). It is therefore difficult to come up with a robust estimate of reduction against the 2006-07 baseline across all waste streams at this point, and further analysis will be done later this year to provide the most robust estimate possible. With that caveat, the latest data published against each waste stream is as follows:

- Household: 1,232 thousand tonnes (2023-24) representing 22 per cent reduction
- Industrial: 1,441 thousand tonnes (2018) representing 24 per cent reduction
- Commercial: 1,453 thousand tonnes (2018) representing 13 per cent reduction
- Construction and demolition: 3,427 thousand tonnes (2019) representing 37 per cent reduction

Therefore, latest data estimates show total waste at 7,552,000 tonnes overall, a 28.7 per cent overall reduction against the 2006-07 baseline of 10,553,261 tonnes.

Zero waste to landfill:

There is also positive progress in respect of the objective of zero waste to landfill and the 2024-25 target of landfilling less than 5 per cent of waste produced in Wales.

The latest published landfill rates are:

- Local Authority collected municipal waste – 0.9 per cent in 2023-24⁴
- Industrial and commercial waste – 11 per cent in 2018⁵
- Construction and demolition waste – 6 per cent in 2019⁶

For our municipal waste, it means that since devolution, the landfill rate has decreased from 95 per cent in 1998 to 0.9 per cent. With the introduction of workplace recycling regulations now in place, we expect that more recyclable material will be captured for re-processing, thereby reducing material to landfill further. In addition, the regulations include a ban on all wood waste going to landfill which will further contribute to delivery against this target.

¹ [Natural Resources Wales / Industrial and Commercial Waste Survey 2018](#)

² [Natural Resources Wales / Construction and demolition waste survey for 2019](#)

³ [Local authority municipal waste management: April 2023 to March 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

⁴ [Local authority municipal waste management: April 2023 to March 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

⁵ <https://naturalresources.wales/media/693534/survey-of-commercial-and-industrial-waste-generated-in-wales-2018.pdf>

⁶ [2019 Wales construction and demolition waste arising survey \(naturalresources.wales\)](#)

70 per cent recycling rate:

In relation to the target of 70 per cent recycling for waste from households, commercial and industrial businesses by 2025, the latest data held in each area is as follows:

- Local Authority collected municipal waste 2024-25 – 67 per cent⁷
- Waste-from-households 2022 – 56.7 per cent⁸
- Industrial waste 2018 – 69 per cent⁹
- Commercial waste 2018 – 64 per cent¹⁰
- Construction and demolition waste 2019 – 93 per cent¹¹

In terms of local authority collected municipal waste, our local authorities are working hard to deliver against the 70 per cent target. In 2023/24 there were already seven local authorities delivering at 70 per cent or over, before the target came into force.

As noted in previous correspondence, a range of actions are being taken to further increase recycling rates and work towards the target. This includes continuing the successful model of support to local authorities to help them to improve their performance, consisting of the Sustainable Waste Management Grant; targeted capital funding; advice on performance improvement; and the delivery of the Be Mighty public awareness campaign. Most recently we have implemented the new Workplace Recycling Regulations¹² requiring workplaces to keep their key recyclable materials separate and for those to be collected separately, to improve the quantity and quality of recycling from non-domestic premises. In addition, we have rolled out the provision of advice and support to businesses by Business Wales.

50 per cent reduction in avoidable food waste:

We are currently working with WRAP to develop the methodology to analyse and estimate food waste levels and compare them to the 2007 baseline. We expect to be able to estimate total food waste when the latest data is available. The Wales Food Waste Routemap¹³ published by WRAP in 2023 identified actions to meet the 2030 target for 60 per cent reduction in avoidable food waste. It acknowledged that meeting the targets would be challenging, but that the sectors with the biggest opportunity for food waste reduction were household and manufacturing. We are therefore focussing on reducing household food waste through campaigns like Be Mighty and Climate Action Wales, along with support for businesses to reduce waste in the supply chain from Farming Connect, Business Wales, and FareShare Cymru.

3. *You've highlighted how outperforming the second carbon budget would be beneficial in achieving the "extremely challenging" third budget. Based on current projections, how likely is this to be the case?*

⁷ [Local authority municipal waste management: April 2023 to March 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data/uk-statistics-on-waste>

⁹ <https://naturalresources.wales/media/693534/survey-of-commerical-and-industrial-waste-generated-in-wales-2018.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://naturalresources.wales/media/693534/survey-of-commerical-and-industrial-waste-generated-in-wales-2018.pdf>

¹¹ [2019 Wales construction and demolition waste arising survey \(naturalresources.wales\)](#)

¹² [Workplace recycling | GOV.WALES](#)

¹³ [Wales Food Waste Routemap | WRAP](#) and [Waste and Resources Action Programme](#)

The Committee will be aware that Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) requires a 37 per cent average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Official emissions data for 2023 will not be available until June and we will not formally know if we have met the budget until the 2025 data is available in 2027. Consequently, there is naturally some uncertainty, but we have other signals we can point to in the meantime.

The 2023 emissions data for participants of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (power, industry and aviation) has been published. The participants were responsible for nearly half of Wales' emissions in 2021 and 2022, so this gives us a good indication of whether emissions will fall in 2023. In 2023 emissions for participants of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme were significantly lower in 2023 compared to 2022 and therefore, even if other sectors remained the same, we would see a sizeable reduction in 2023.

As a result, provisional forecasts for 2023 indicate that emissions are expected to decrease by 8 per cent between 2022 and 2023. This would mean a 41 per cent decrease compared to the base year in 2023. This suggests the first three years of Carbon Budget 2 (CB2) emissions were largely on track to deliver the statutory target of a 37 per cent average reduction.

Nevertheless, we must be cautious. The emissions of UK ETS participants can be quite volatile. They can fall dramatically if an installation is undergoing refit or there is an economic downturn. Equally, they can rise dramatically due to geopolitics, economic opportunity and even the weather, so predicting for 2024 and 2025 comes with a high degree of uncertainty. However, we must acknowledge that the closure of a blast furnaces in Port Talbot last year, will also result in much reduced emissions from steel production.

Taking all of these considerations together, whilst it is very difficult to predict where we will find ourselves in 2027, our expectation is that we will meet the level of emission reduction expected in Carbon Budget 2.

4. Wales's decarbonisation progress is significant, but varies substantially between sectors. Which sectors do you expect to prove most challenging in meeting the third carbon budget? How will you address the challenges?

It is important to recognise that every sector has its own challenges. This is why our approach is led by evidence about where the opportunities to reduce emission lie and what works – and why the approach is embedded across the whole Cabinet. In every emissions sector, the relevant Cabinet Secretary is driving the actions needed and is ensuring spending has the greatest impact in delivering our carbon budgets and reaching net zero by 2050.

However, the Committee will be aware that action is being taken by individuals, businesses and the wider public sector. Net Zero is not something that will be achieved just through Government action and increasingly it is being demanded by individuals and global organisations.

From a consumer perspective, we are seeing individuals increasingly buy heat pumps, electric cars and making changes their diet. We are also seeing business and the public sector increasingly using sustainability criteria in their business decisions.

A key role for Government is to build on this public interest and demand and bring everyone with us and ensure we deliver a just transition. The Welsh Government has a key role to support and enable trusted voices to explore, with our communities, the opportunities and risks in transitioning to a low carbon economy. By doing so, we can identify the actions which will maximise the benefits of the transition and mitigate the risks.

Storm response inquiry session

- 1. What mechanisms are in place to enable Welsh Government officials to raise concerns with NRW, and have these been used to address any issues following recent storms?*

My officials engage with their Natural Resources Wales (NRW) counterparts on a regular basis. We also have formal mechanisms in place; for example, Welsh Government hold quarterly sponsorship meetings with acting Chief Executive and the senior team at NRW and NRW are members of Welsh Government's Flood Programme Board. These governance frameworks allow us to raise and discuss any issues in a timely manner and ensure the performance of our flood programme.

We also have mechanisms to engage with NRW before, during and after any flood incident. Following Storms Bert and Darragh in November and December, I convened roundtable discussions with key responders and partner organisations to share lessons learnt and NRW were part of that discussion.

- 2. The Welsh Government's Flood Guidance Framework states it will be updated "every two years or following lessons learned from incidents or exercises, restructuring of organisations or changes in processes." Why has it not been updated since 2016, and when do you plan to update the Framework?*

The Wales Flood Response Framework was developed in partnership with emergency responders and provides an overview of the plans and procedures still in place for preparing for, and responding to, flood events.

Welsh Government's National Security and Resilience Division (NSRD) is currently undertaking a review of pan-Wales resilience governance structures and is expecting to publish the Wales Resilience Framework in May. Once published, my officials will engage with NSRD officials and the Flood Framework will be reviewed to reflect any changes.

- 3. Your climate adaptation strategy says you will consider policy options related to sector-specific risks and contingencies in ICT and telecoms. Are you developing policies in this area, and have the impacts of Storm Darragh affected your thinking on this?*

The UK Government leads on all issues of telecommunications resilience including both immediate and emergency issues and longer-term planning. They have established the Electronic Communications Resilience & Response Group (ECRRG) with the UK telecoms industry to address issues relating to resilience facing the sector. EC-RRG also manages the National Emergency Plan for Telecommunications which sets out processes for handling emergencies, priority customers and services. Nevertheless, telecommunications has dependencies on other areas of devolved competence such as energy and planning and Welsh Government engages with UK Government officials and the industry to understand the issues and amplify the impact in Wales of specific incidents, such as Storm Darragh. We will engage with UK Government and the telecoms regulator, Ofcom, to ensure that Ofcom is given a climate resilience remit across the UK, including all devolved administrations.

Meanwhile, the forthcoming Wales Resilience Framework has been developed in collaboration with partners across the resilience community to provide a clear strategic direction for our resilience partners in Wales. It will be supported by a Delivery Plan which will set out clearly how we intend to deliver tangible changes and benefits for our partners and our communities. To ensure our long-term approach and delivery priorities meet Wales's needs and circumstances, the Framework is underpinned by the following core principles, endorsed by the Wales Resilience Forum, and which have been developed with civil contingencies partners and the third sector:

- An improved and shared understanding of risk.
- A focus on prevention and preparedness.
- A joined-up and streamlined approach to delivery.
- A whole of society approach to resilience.
- A 'Once for Wales' approach.
- A focus on optimising efficiency.

Those core principles help to frame the collective endeavours of government, emergency responders and the voluntary sector to reduce the risk and impact of emergencies and disruptive challenges and build resilience across Wales.

*4. During this inquiry, several stakeholders have told us of their interest in exploring more catchment-scale and nature-based methods to flood mitigation. Do you anticipate a move away from hard engineering approaches to water management in the future, and **will this be reflected in Welsh Government resource allocation?***

There will always be a place for hard engineering solutions, but the Welsh Government recognises the significant role that a catchment-scale and nature-based methods can and will play in managing flood risk. We actively promote Natural Flood Management (NFM) and support Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to work in collaboration with landowners and farmers to pursue nature-based solutions which reduce flood risk and protect and enhance our natural environment.

We currently have two schemes in our main flood programme that are currently at the final business case stage: the Gwyfrai Catchment in Snowdonia, Conwy, and the Ogwen Catchment in Gwynedd. Previously, four schemes in Cardiff, Monmouthshire, and Powys have been designed or completed with NFM aspects.

With the £2 million investment from the flood budget for 2025-2026, we will support 23 projects across Wales. These projects aim to enhance the natural environment and reduce flood risk for up to 2,800 properties.

5. Does the current fragmentation of water management responsibilities present any obstacles to delivering catchment-scale approaches to water management? Are you looking to introduce any changes in this area?

The Committee will be aware that in October, Welsh Government and UK Government jointly commissioned the most extensive independent review of the water sector in England and Wales since privatisation. The Independent Commission, led by Sir Jon Cunliffe, will consider Wales distinct industry and policy landscape and the scope of the review includes the governance structures within water catchment areas. I expect the Commission to present its findings in a report in early summer and once I have considered its findings, I will then outline the action I plan to take.

6. *Is the Welsh Government looking into water-retaining and drought-resistant planting in upland areas, particularly in light of recent wildfires in North Wales? And has the Welsh Government produced an impact assessment as a consequence of these fires?*

Our Climate Adaptation Strategy notes that forestry productivity may be affected by climate-related impacts. As highlighted during evidence session on 27 March, Wales is already being affected by changing climatic conditions, as we have seen with Storms Darragh and Eowyn and with the recent series of wildfires. There are risks posed by more frequent extreme weather events, such as drought, flooding and wildfire. Invasive species and changes in the pattern of outbreaks of pests and diseases also present a serious threat to our woodlands.

Risks to forestry, woodland and soils represent a risk to our plans to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, due to their function as natural carbon stores which sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Adapting our silvicultural methods, as well as improving resilience, may also support increased biodiversity. It is important that the forestry sector plans for these areas of risk and opportunity to ensure sustainability of the sector in the context of climate change, especially given the relatively long-term planning cycles involved.

Our consultation on the priorities and proposals for Wales's first Timber Industrial Strategy was opened on 22 January and closed on 16 April. The second priority explored is "Increasing resilience in our forests" and covers topics such as promoting diversification and adapting silvicultural systems to improve resilience to climate change and pests and disease. The [consultation document](#) was open for responses until 16 April.

7. *When will the Welsh Government publish the Wales Resilience Framework, as well as the Welsh Government response to the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales' flooding report?*

The Welsh Government's response to the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales's Flood Report will be published imminently, and the Wales Resilience Framework will be published in May.

Thank you again for a useful discussion. I look forward to receiving the outcome report from the Committee's Storm Response inquiry in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

Chair, Chair's Forum

1 April 2025

Dear Committee Chairs,

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2025-26: Evidence provided by the Welsh Government

In our [report](#) on the scrutiny of the [Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26](#), 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. The Committee will consult Senedd committees involved in budget scrutiny ahead of the Welsh Spending Review and the 2026-27 budget round to explore ways to maximise budgetary scrutiny in the Senedd, in order to mitigate the impact of a curtailed scrutiny window."

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 2026-27 Draft Budget and beyond, I would be grateful for the views of your committee in response to the following questions:

- 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.

- Given the UK Spending Review, which is due to be published on 11 June 2025, will provide indicative funding for the Welsh Government future years, do you have any views on information you would require regarding a subsequent Welsh Spending Review, either along with budget documentation or as a separate exercise?

We would appreciate responses by **Friday 23 May 2025**. Your views will then be collated and fed back to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, for his consideration in advance of the Budget Priorities 2026-27 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.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

17 April 2025

Dear Llyr

Thank you for your letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, on behalf of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, regarding the application by Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd for a proposed revised restoration scheme for the Ffos y Fran open cast coalmine.

The issues at the site cut across a number of policy areas but the particular matters you raise in your correspondence fall within the planning system so your correspondence has been passed to me for reply. I address each of the questions raised in your correspondence in turn, below.

1. The options that are available to the Welsh Government to intervene in this case to ensure an appropriate level of restoration is delivered.

Responsibility for enforcing compliance with the agreed scheme rests with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in the first instance.

The agreed restoration scheme stipulated a completion date of 6 December 2024. Clearly, the scheme has not yet been implemented in full. The current situation is that the LPA must decide whether or not to use enforcement powers to regularise any breach of planning control. In deciding whether to use those powers, the LPA must conclude whether such action is expedient in the wider public interest.

Where a breach has occurred, a developer will often submit an application in an attempt to regularise the breach. While sometimes this is a delaying tactic, on other occasions an

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

application enables a transparent assessment of the development's merits, allows for public consultation that would not otherwise take place through the enforcement process and permits the imposition of planning conditions if the development is otherwise acceptable. The LPA is in receipt of an application for a revised restoration scheme and is in the process of determining it.

The application for a revised restoration scheme is made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Should it be granted, the effect of the consent would be to grant a new full planning permission for the entire scheme.

The options available to the Welsh Ministers for intervention in the case are:

To call in the Section 73 application for their own determination.

A request to call in the planning application is under active consideration and will be responded to in due course. In the meantime, the LPA should continue to process the application. Consideration of the call-in request will be informed by the LPA's work on the case.

To use reserve powers of enforcement to compel the developer to complete the already approved restoration scheme.

The Welsh Ministers have received requests to use their reserve enforcement powers under Section 182 of the 1990 Act. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the Welsh Government's strategic policies for land use planning in Wales. Paragraph 1.32 of PPW states:

“Development proposals are generally best determined locally by LPAs which know their area, its needs and sensitivities. The Welsh Ministers do not interfere with LPAs’ jurisdiction unless it is necessary to do so.”

Para 1.36 of PPW discusses use of the Welsh Ministers' reserve powers to intervene in matters which are for the LPA to consider in the first instance, and states:

“Such intervention would overturn a planning authority’s judgement on a matter which is, in the first place, its responsibility and may only be justified in exceptional circumstances. The general principle is that such action should be considered only where the original decision is judged to be grossly wrong, so that damage would be done to the wider public interest.”

LPA officers have advised Welsh Government officials that some restoration activities are continuing onsite, and that the LPA has released some funds from the restoration bond escrow account to pay for this activity. I understand the extent of current works is influenced by a number of factors, including environmental and seasonal conditions. Any use of enforcement powers in relation to failure to comply with the agreed restoration scheme, either by the LPA or by the Welsh Ministers, would need to demonstrate a failure by the developer to take appropriate action to implement the scheme beyond what is already taking place. This is a finely balanced decision for the LPA to take in the first instance.

To consider a planning appeal.

It remains open to the LPA to refuse permission for the Section 73 planning application, and to subsequently pursue enforcement action to ensure compliance with the agreed restoration scheme. The developer would be entitled to appeal to the Welsh Ministers in respect of both decisions of the LPA.

2. The steps the Welsh Government is taking to ensure the best possible outcome for local residents.

The LPA has formed a Technical Working Group (TWG) which is attended and supported by Welsh Government planning and coal tip safety officials, as well as Natural Resources Wales, the Health and Safety Executive, the Mining Remediation Authority and other stakeholders. The TWG is working to ensure its members and the developer are able to respond to concerns in relation to the potential for flooding, pollution and the impact of contaminated land, particularly with respect to the water level in the void.

Separately to the TWG, stakeholders with regulatory responsibilities, including the LPA and Welsh Government officials, are sharing information to ensure a joined-up approach is taken to the use of regulatory powers, if required.

3. Whether the Welsh Government has assessed Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd's financial capacity to deliver the restoration that was initially agreed.

Merthyr (South Wales) Ltd filed full accounts up to 31 December 2023 with Companies House, on 14 March 2025. The accounts can be found at <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/04261274/filing-history>. These accounts include provision to pay for restoration costs associated with the Ffos y Fran restoration scheme.

Through the accounts, the company director Mr D Lewis has stated the restoration provision is the management's best estimate of the cash flow expected in order to restore the mine in accordance with the planning consent. The Welsh Government does not have powers under company law to investigate or challenge that statement. We are aware, from looking at the accounts that most of the earmarked restoration funds have been loaned to other group companies but note the director's assertion that the balance is recoverable. The Welsh Ministers have not undertaken an assessment of the company's financial capacity beyond considering their published accounts.

The information presented above is a factual summary of the circumstances surrounding the proposed revised restoration scheme, and potential enforcement action. As these matters are under formal consideration by the Welsh Ministers any comments on the merits of the case could be seen as prejudicial to the matter, leaving the subsequent decision vulnerable to judicial review. I hope you will understand that as a result, I have avoided commenting on the merits of the issue.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

Huw Irranca-Davies MS,
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

17 April 2025

Dear Huw,

Approach to consideration of the Environment (Governance, Principles and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

I understand the Welsh Government is aiming to introduce the Environment (Governance, Principles and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill (the EGPBT Bill) to the Senedd in June. Given the subject matter of the EGPBT Bill, we anticipate it will be referred to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee) for scrutiny.

You may be aware that the Committee is currently scrutinising two Bills: the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and the Bus Services (Wales) Bill. It is vital that we are able to manage effectively our Bill scrutiny over the coming months. As such, we are suggesting a creative approach in relation to the EGPBT Bill.

Subject to the Senedd's agreement of the general principles of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill, Stage 2 scrutiny will begin in the autumn term. We are keen to minimise overlap between Stage 1 scrutiny of the EGPBT Bill and Stage 2 scrutiny of the Bus Services (Wales) Bill. Our strong preference, therefore, would be to hold oral evidence sessions with external stakeholders on the EGPBT Bill before the end of the summer term. However, the disadvantage of this proposal is that it will, in practice, reduce significantly the time available for key stakeholders to prepare written evidence in advance of their respective oral evidence sessions.

The EGPBT Bill is highly anticipated. Further, based on your assertion that the Bill will be one of the most significant "pieces of legislation this Senedd will have seen", we presume it will be lengthy and complex. It is essential, therefore, to provide external stakeholders with sufficient time to prepare to give evidence. To this end, we consider it would be beneficial for the EGPBT Bill and associated

materials, such as the Explanatory Memorandum, to be published in draft in May, in advance of the Bill's introduction. This would give key stakeholders the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill. You will recall that a similar approach was taken for the Environment (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Bill, albeit for a different reason, i.e. to enable the Committee to take evidence and report on the draft Bill in the absence of Stage 1 scrutiny.

I am sure you can appreciate that the Committee finds itself in a difficult position, having to scrutinise two Bills concurrently, with a third Bill due shortly. We would not, of course, want our proposed approach to set a precedent that would result in less time available for Senedd Committees to undertake Bill scrutiny. However, these are exceptional circumstances and require a creative approach from the Welsh Government. If you are unable to consider this proposal, it is likely that the Committee will need to request more time for Stage 1 scrutiny of the EGPBT Bill in due course. We ask that you consider our proposed approach at the earliest available opportunity.

I am copying this letter to the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, Chair of the Business 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.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/1104/25

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

30 April 2025

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 April regarding the Committee's approach to consideration of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill.

I appreciate the heavy legislative workload that the Committee has currently, having to scrutinise the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and the Bus Services (Wales) Bill concurrently, with a third Bill due shortly. The Counsel General and Minister for Delivery confirmed our intention to make full use of the available time to introduce new legislation this Senedd term, by bringing forward a number of Bills in the final year of the Senedd during the annual Legislative Statement. As such, I am keen to work with the Committee to ensure that you are able to support the proposed timetable for the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill as a delay risks a scenario where a bottleneck of multiple Bills will reach the final stages in close proximity to one another at the end of the Senedd term.

I have attached an in confidence bilingual copy of the draft Bill and an English only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum to provide Committee members with an opportunity to see the proposed scope and direction of the Bill before its formal introduction. Please note that this is not a final version, and that it is possible that there could be changes as required by the Determination process before it is introduced to the Senedd. I hope that this will allow a meaningful discussion on the proposed timetable with the Business Committee, reflecting the size, scope and complexity of the legislation.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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 would also be happy to share an in confidence bilingual copy of the draft Bill and an English only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum with key stakeholders – with appropriate caveats and rationale for sharing the documents with them – in order to give them the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill to inform their oral and written evidence. I would be pleased to work with the Committee to agree which organisations should be provided with advanced sight of the documents.

As noted in your letter, these are exceptional circumstances which require a creative approach, and we would not want this to set a precedent.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

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

Huw Irranca-Davies MS,
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

1 May 2025

Dear Huw,

**Approach to consideration of the Environment (Governance, Principles and Biodiversity Targets)
(Wales) Bill**

Thank you for your letter, dated 30 April, regarding the Committee's approach to consideration of the forthcoming Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill (the Bill), and for sharing a copy of the draft Bill and Explanatory Memorandum (EM) with us.

We would be pleased to accept your offer to share an in confidence bilingual copy of the draft Bill and an English only copy of the Explanatory Memorandum with key stakeholders. We would like to make clear that this does not prejudice any subsequent consideration of the proposed scrutiny timetable by the Committee.

I have asked the Clerking team to contact your officials with a provisional list of key stakeholders from whom the Committee is likely to want to take oral evidence to inform its scrutiny of the Bill.

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.

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddHinsawdd@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddHinsawdd
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddClimate@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddClimate
0300 200 6565

By email: seneddclimate@senedd.wales

29th April 2025

Dear Chair,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to inform you that I have made the very difficult decision to retire in Spring 2026 as Chief Executive of Dŵr Cymru.

Now is the right time – at the start of the current investment period and before we start the next price review preparations - to begin the process of searching for my successor. It is never an easy decision to make, but as has been the case with previous CEOs here, there is a period in the AMP cycle where a decision is needed on whether to stay on for another 5-year cycle or to hand over the reins to give someone else enough time to lead the company in preparation of the next price review period.

Having had the privilege of working here since I left school and joining the company as an apprentice, it has been an immense privilege to lead Dŵr Cymru over the last five years through some of the most turbulent – and also the most rewarding - periods the company has seen. Despite the many challenges we have faced, the way in which colleagues across the business have responded has been nothing short of inspirational and we look forward to unprecedented levels of investment over the next five years while also supporting our vulnerable customers.

It is as a result of some of those challenges that we have had the opportunity to give evidence to your committee, answer those important questions and address concerns. I want to thank you personally for those opportunities and for all the work you, the committee members and the clerks do on the important topic of our water and wastewater infrastructure in Wales.

I have been immensely grateful for the support and constructive challenge the committee has given us over the years, and I sincerely hope that our constructive engagement with the committee will continue under the next Chief Executive's leadership too.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration. If you'd like to discuss this further at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Perry
Chief Executive
Dŵr Cymru

We're not-for-profit. Every single penny we make goes back into looking after your water and environment. You can contact us in Welsh or English.

Rydym yn gwmni nid-er-elw. Mae pob ceiniog a wnawn yn mynd i ofalu am eich dŵr a'ch amgylchedd. Cysylltwch a ni yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg.

Dŵr Cymru Cyf. (No./Rhif 2366777)
A limited Company registered in Wales:
Cwmni cyfyngedig wedi'i gofrestru yng Nghymru:

Linea, Fortran Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0LT

Annwyl Gadeirydd,

Ysgrifennaf atoch yn eich rhinwedd chi fel Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Newid yn yr Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith y Senedd i'ch hysbysu fy mod wedi gwneud y penderfyniad anodd iawn i ymddeol yng Ngwanwyn 2026 fel Prif Weithredwr Dŵr Cymru.

Nawr yw'r amser iawn - ar ddechrau'r cyfnod buddsoddi presennol a chyn i ni ddechrau'r paratodau adolygu prisiau nesaf - i ddechrau'r broses o chwilio am fy olynnydd. Nid yw byth yn benderfyniad hawdd i'w wneud, ond fel sydd wedi bod yn achos Prif Swyddog Gweithredol blaenorol yma, mae yna gyfnod yn y cylch AMP lle mae angen penderfyniad ynghylch a ddylid aros am gylch 5 mlynedd arall neu i drosglwyddo'r awenau i roi digon o amser i rywun arall arwain y cwmni wrth baratoi ar gyfer y cyfnod adolygu prisiau nesaf.

Ar ôl cael y fraint o weithio yma ers i mi adael yr ysgol ac ymuno â'r cwmni fel prentis, mae wedi bod yn fraint enfawr arwain Dŵr Cymru dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf trwy rai o'r cyfnodau mwyaf cythryblus – a hefyd y cyfnodau mwyaf gwerth chweil – y mae'r cwmni wedi'u gweld. Er gwaethaf yr heriau niferus yr ydym wedi'u hwynebu, mae'r ffordd y mae cydweithwyr ar draws y busnes wedi ymateb wedi bod yn ddim llai nag ysbrydoledig ac rydym yn edrych ymlaen am lefel uwch o fuddsoddiad dros y bum mlynedd nesaf tra'n bod ni yn rhoi cymorth i gwsmeriaid bregus.

O ganlyniad i rai o'r heriau hynny rydym wedi cael cyfle i roi tystiolaeth i'ch pwyllgor, ateb y cwestiynau pwysig hynny a mynd i'r afael â phryderon. Hoffwn ddiolch yn bersonol i chi am y cyfleoedd hynny ac am yr holl waith rydych chi, aelodau'r pwyllgor a'r clercod yn ei wneud ar bwnc pwysig ein seilwaith dŵr a dŵr gwastraff yng Nghymru.

Rwyf wedi bod yn hynod ddiolchgar am y gefnogaeth a'r her adeiladol y mae'r pwyllgor wedi'i roi i ni dros y blynyddoedd, ac rwy'n gobeithio'n ddiffuant y bydd ein hymgysylltiad adeiladol â'r pwyllgor yn parhau o dan arweinyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr nesaf hefyd.

Diolch am roi ystyriaeth i'r mater hwn. Os hoffech drafod hyn ymhellach ar unrhyw adeg, mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni.

Yn gywir,

Peter Perry



Prif Weithredwr
Dŵr Cymru

Agenda Item 3.11

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

15 April
By email

Dear Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee,

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) will be in Cardiff on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 May. We are keen to meet with you to learn more about your priorities and how and where that overlaps with our work.

The ASA is the UK's independent regulator of advertising by legitimate businesses across all media. We work closely with politicians as well as the ad industry, consumer groups and civil society organisations to make sure that people and businesses are protected from irresponsible advertising.

Last year, the ASA received 1,366 complaints from people in Wales. We are keen to use our visit to understand the key advertising issues people and businesses are facing in Wales. We would also like to brief you on the role and remit of the ASA in relation to the Committee's work and how we can work together to tackle ad related harms in Wales.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any issues you might wish to raise around advertising or ad regulation as well as the consumer protection landscape in Wales. My colleague, Grace Curley (gracec@asa.org.uk) can help to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Guy Parker
Chief Executive, ASA

Legal, decent, honest and truthful

Chair The Rt Hon the Baroness Morgan of Cotes **Chief Executive** Guy Parker
ASA Council (Broadcast) Matt Barwell, Murphy Cobbing, Elizabeth Gordon, Alison Hastings, Claire Hilton, Mark Howe, Rotha Johnston, Richard Lloyd, Kirsten Miller, Rebecca Rumbul, Krystle Sargent and Monisha Shah



Ein cyf/Our Ref: MA/RE/0967/25

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay

01 May 2025

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter in relation to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report on the Legislative Consent Memoranda for the Data (Use and Access) Bill laid on 19 March 2025.

I thank the members of the Committee for their report. I acknowledge the conclusion reached by the Committee in relation to Part 3 of the Bill on the National Underground Asset Register (NUAR) and welcome its endorsement of the Welsh Government's position on this matter.

I am pleased to confirm that as a result of positive discussions with the UK Government, amendments were tabled to clauses 56, 57(3), 57(4) and 57(9) in Part 3 of the Bill on 25 March 2025. As set out in Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum No.3 laid on the Bill on 3 April 2025, these amendments have provided necessary constitutional safeguards and will ensure devolved interests are protected in the development of further subordinate legislation surrounding the creation of the NUAR. As a result, I have recommended that the Senedd supports the Bill and gives its consent.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

The Committee also requested reassurance that the WLGA has been consulted on the proposals and their potential impact in Wales. The WLGA has met with both the Welsh and UK Government to discuss NUAR and this engagement will continue on a regular basis as work progresses. In parallel, Local Authorities have been regularly engaged throughout the development of NUAR since the build phase began in 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted