

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee room 4 Tŷ Hywel and video Conference via Zoom	Marc Wyn Jones Committee Clerk
Meeting date: 9 October 2025	0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.30	SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

Public meeting (09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Papers to note (09.30)

2.1 UK Emissions Trading Scheme

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) Authority

2.2 P-06-1506 We call for an end to further public funding for cycle paths and cycle Infrastructure in Wales

(Pages 3 – 4)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee to the Chair in relation to



Petition P-06-1506 (We call for an end to further public funding for cycle paths and cycle Infrastructure in Wales)

2.3 Rail investment announcements in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2025

(Pages 5 – 10)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales in relation to rail investment announcements in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2025

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to the Chair in relation to rail investments in Wales

Letter from the Chair to Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE in relation to rail infrastructure following the UK Government funding announcements

2.4 Rulings on greener homes advertisement

(Pages 11 – 12)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Advertising Standards Authority to the Chair in relation to rulings on greener homes ads

2.5 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 13 – 21)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the First Minister of Wales to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the 43rd British-Irish Council Summit

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the 16 September meeting of the Transport Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the 21 October Interministerial Group meeting 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 in relation to the 17 September

Interministerial Group meeting on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change
Follow up letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the cancellation of the 17 September Interministerial Group meeting 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 8 September meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Follow up 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 cancellation of the 8 September meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the budget cover transfer between UK Government and Welsh Government

2.6 Announcement of the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water transformation programme

(Pages 22 – 23)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chief Executive of Dŵr Cymru to the Chair in relation to the announcement of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's transformation programme

2.7 The response to recent storms

(Pages 24 – 25)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Association of British Insurers to the Chair in relation to the Committee's report: The response to recent storms

2.8 Great British Energy

(Pages 26 – 27)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair in relation to Great British Energy

2.9 Welsh Government staffing capacity and delivery of the Programme for Government

(Pages 28 – 29)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee in relation to Welsh Government staffing capacity and delivery of the Programme for Government

2.10 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026–27

(Pages 30 – 36)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs in relation to the Welsh Government's draft budget 2026–27

Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales in relation to the Welsh Government's draft budget 2026–27

2.11 Scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales

(Pages 37 – 38)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Chair to British Mountaineering Council Cymru in relation to the scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales

2.12 Independent Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales – SPA network in Wales

(Pages 39 – 44)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Independent Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales to the Chair in relation to work on the SPA network in Wales

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

(Pages 45 – 47)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change to the Chair following the 18 September meeting in relation to the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill

2.14 Scrutiny of Transport for Wales

(Page 48)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair Transport for Wales to the Chair in relation to upcoming plans for Transport for Wales

3 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 16 October 2025

(09.30)

Private meeting (09.30–10.30)

4 Bus Services (Wales) Bill – Order of consideration at Stage 2

(Pages 49 – 50)

Attached Documents:

Stage 2: Bus Services (Wales) Bill – Order of consideration

5 Chair's Forum consultation: Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

(Pages 51 – 63)

Attached Documents:

Paper – Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

Letter from the Chair of Business Committee to the Chair in relation to the Chair's Forum consultation: Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth

Senedd

Letter from the First Minister for Wales to the Chair of the Chair's Forum in relation to the Chairs' Forum review of Committee operations in the sixth Senedd

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 & Rural Affairs

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO-368-25

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

22 July 2025

Dear Llŷr,

I am writing to inform you the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) Authority – formed of the Welsh Government, UK Government, Scottish Government, and Northern Ireland Executive – yesterday published two interim Authority Responses on the expansion of the UK ETS to waste incineration and domestic maritime and a main authority response on greenhouse gas removals (GGRs).

In May 2024, the Authority published a consultation which sought views on the details of bringing energy from waste (EfW) and waste incineration into the scope of the UK ETS. Yesterday's interim Authority Response sets out the introduction and scope of a voluntary Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) period starting on 1 January 2026. This voluntary period will collect essential data for the UK ETS Authority and enable industry to prepare for cost exposure ahead of a move to full inclusion in the scheme. A further response to outstanding elements of the consultation will be published when the Authority has assessed the data from the voluntary MRV period to develop a policy which ensures Local Authorities are protected from bearing the full costs and ensures the carbon price is apportioned on all polluters in the waste chain. This approach would seek to incentivise decarbonisation rather than pass costs through the waste chain and on to Local Authorities. The second interim Authority Response published yesterday follows a consultation published in November 2024 that sought views on the details of including the domestic maritime sector in the scheme. Yesterday's response confirms that the UK ETS will apply to all emissions from all domestic voyages (within UK ports) for vessels over 5000 Gross Tonnage. It also informs stakeholders that maritime will be in-scope of the UK ETS from 1 July 2026, giving stakeholders a year to prepare for inclusion. A further response to outstanding elements of the consultation will be published in due course, once the Authority has developed final policy positions for the scope of the scheme.

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.

The final response on integrating Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs) into the scheme follows a consultation published in May 2024. The consultation sought views on high-level proposals including: principles for policy design when integrating GGRs into the UK ETS (including engineered removals and woodland removals); cap policy options; allowance design for GGRs; permanence of carbon storage; and pathways to integration. The response confirms most elements of the consultation, providing important stakeholder certainty on our approach to the UK ETS cap, allowance design and timeframes. However, it does not include a decision on inclusion of woodland removals. This decision has been delayed to allow further time for consideration of wider policy interactions and to gather stakeholder views on the new evidence published yesterday, that assesses the potential impact of woodland inclusion. I will provide an update to the Senedd on this as it becomes available.

The responses on waste incineration and EfW alongside domestic maritime are interim responses, intended to give clarity to stakeholders about the next steps in including these sectors in the UK ETS. These will be followed by full Authority Responses, which will be published prior to legislation being laid that will enact these changes. The Senedd, along with other UK Parliaments, will have the opportunity to scrutinise plans once they are finalised. The Authority Response on GGRs is the first step towards integrating engineered GGRs into the UK ETS. Given the complexity of the proposals, further technical consultation is planned to gather invaluable evidence on the details of the mechanics of integration. I will update the Senedd as this work progresses.

The publication of these responses marks a vital next step in developing effective proposals for expansion of the UK ETS, increasing the level of emissions that will come under the scheme and helping to shape the future of the UK ETS in a way that supports Wales' long-term net zero ambitions and broader decarbonisation strategy. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

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 & Rural Affairs

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

Mark Isherwood MS,
Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

23 July 2025

Dear Llyr and Mark,

Petition P-06-1506 We call for an end to further public funding for cycle paths and cycle Infrastructure in Wales

The Petitions Committee met on 14 July and considered the above petition, submitted by Steve Williams.

Active travel has been the subject of detailed scrutiny in the Senedd and by Audit Wales and so it was agreed there was not much more the Committee could do. It was agreed to close the petition, but in doing so to highlight the petition with you as Chairs of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petition, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here: [P-06-1506 We call for an end to further public funding for cycle paths and cycle Infrastructure in Wales](#)

I would be grateful if you could send any response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Ken Skates MS,
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

3 July 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Rail investment announcements in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2025

I am writing to seek clarification on several matters following the recent announcements regarding rail funding for Wales, as set out in the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. I note that the UK Government has announced a total of £445 million to support rail infrastructure. In a written statement issued on 11 June, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language stated that £350 million would be made available over the Spending Review period and a further £95 million over ten years through the Infrastructure Strategy.

In light of statements made by both the UK and Welsh Governments, I would be grateful for your response to the following questions:

1. Can you provide a detailed list of all projects in the pipeline of "rail enhancement priorities identified by the Wales Rail Board", as well as details of which will be funded through the £302 million, the criteria used to prioritise these and the status of the remaining projects?
2. Could you outline how the £48 million allocation for the Core Valley Lines will be spent, including a list of projects?
3. Can you clarify the status of the £95 million allocated under the 10-year Infrastructure Strategy, including how it is expected to be phased and managed?
4. How will the further £95 million funding for rail infrastructure allocated under the Infrastructure Strategy be spent? What criteria will be used to prioritise this funding and which projects are included?

5. Is funding for Rail Infrastructure for the next decade limited to projects identified as projects that will benefit from the Infrastructure Strategy? If not, is it your expectation that further funding will be made available in future years?
6. What role will the Wales Rail Board play in future, including in the delivery of projects under the two funding streams?
7. What plans are in place for rail enhancement projects beyond the current three-year Spending Review period? Could you provide an outline of the funding needed to deliver the Welsh Government's longer-term rail strategy? How will projects that are not funded under the Infrastructure Strategy be funded?
8. How is the Welsh Government engaging with the UK Government to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding model for rail infrastructure beyond the period of this Spending Review?

The Committee would be grateful for your response to these matters.

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/KS/374/2025

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

29 July 2025

Dear Llyr

Thank you for your letter of 3 July regarding the UK Government's announcement for rail investment in Wales as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review. I welcome the Committee's interest in this matter and have outlined a response to the Committee's questions below.

1. Can you provide a detailed list of all projects in the pipeline of "rail enhancement priorities identified by the Wales Rail Board", as well as details of which will be funded through the £302 million, the criteria used to prioritise these and the status of the remaining projects?

We have worked alongside the UK Government as part of the joint Wales Rail Board to agree a prioritised pipeline of rail infrastructure enhancements for Wales and the Borders. The total delivery cost of the schemes within the pipeline is in excess of £4bn. A decision will be taken in due course regarding the publication of the pipeline.

On 8 July the UK Government [announced](#) the list of schemes that will be funded as part of the £302m settlement for rail in Wales from the Spending Review. This will support the development and delivery of the priorities of the Wales Rail Board over the 4-year period covered by the Spending Review. This includes funding to progress: Cardiff Central modernisation, South Wales Relief Lines upgrade, Wrexham to Liverpool line congestion relief, Cardiff West Junction Capacity, New stations in South Wales (Burns stations), Accessible footbridges on North Wales Mainline, and unallocated development funding for the Wales Rail Board to identify new priorities.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@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.

2. Could you outline how the £48 million allocation for the Core Valley Lines will be spent, including a list of projects?

The £48 million allocated for the Core Valley Lines covers the 4-year period of the Spending Review (£12m per year) and will be included in the Welsh Government block grant. We will work closely with Transport for Wales to determine priorities and timeline for spend on CVL enhancements over the Spending Review period. This builds on our over £1bn investment to upgrade the CVL and deliver further improvements for passengers.

3. Can you clarify the status of the £95 million allocated under the 10-year Infrastructure Strategy, including how it is expected to be phased and managed?

The UK Government's allocation of £95m under the 10-year Infrastructure Strategy will help to commence or progress rail enhancement priorities in Wales. This signals the UK Government's commitment to invest in Wales now and into the future. We remain in close contact with the UK Government as they determine the phasing and management of their funding.

4. How will the further £95 million funding for rail infrastructure allocated under the Infrastructure Strategy be spent? What criteria will be used to prioritise this funding and which projects are included?

The UK Government is responsible for determining the allocation of their funding for rail in Wales. We continue to work closely via the joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board to progress our shared priorities for rail in Wales aligned to wider government policy.

5. Is funding for Rail Infrastructure for the next decade limited to projects identified as projects that will benefit from the Infrastructure Strategy? If not, is it your expectation that further funding will be made available in future years?

The UK Government's 4-year Spending Review period covers FY2026/27 – FY2029/30. The Infrastructure Strategy outlines the UK Government's commitment to ensuring that plans for future investment in rail in Wales will be made in close consultation with the Welsh Government.

6. What role will the Wales Rail Board play in future, including in the delivery of projects under the two funding streams?

The joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board will oversee the delivery of the priorities funded by the Spending Review. Decisions on which delivery body is best placed to take forward each of these priorities has not been decided.

7. What plans are in place for rail enhancement projects beyond the current three-year Spending Review period? Could you provide an outline of the funding needed to deliver the Welsh Government's longer-term rail strategy? How will projects that are not funded under the Infrastructure Strategy be funded?

The joint Welsh and UK Government Wales Rail Board has developed a pipeline of enhancements for rail infrastructure for Wales and the Borders across the short-, medium- and long-term. These projects encompass both devolved and non-devolved infrastructure and we will continue to work together as governments to identify and secure appropriate funding. The total delivery cost of the schemes within the pipeline is in excess of £4bn.

8. How is the Welsh Government engaging with the UK Government to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding model for rail infrastructure beyond the period of this Spending Review?

Welsh Government Ministers and officials work with UK Government counterparts through the Wales Rail Board to agree and prioritise funding for rail infrastructure in Wales and the Borders. It has already agreed a prioritised pipeline of rail infrastructure enhancements for the settlement from the Spending Review. This is just the start of the process to address historic underfunding of rail in Wales and, whilst this marks a significant and welcome step forward, we will continue to make the case for further investment.

If there is anything further you require, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', followed by a large, stylized flourish consisting of several overlapping loops.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddrafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE
Minister of State, Department for Transport

25 July 2025

Dear Lord Hendy,

I am writing as Chair of the Welsh Parliament's Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee to invite you to attend a meeting of the Committee on **Wednesday, 24 September or Thursday, 9 October**, to discuss matters relating to rail infrastructure.

The Committee would welcome the opportunity to explore a range of issues, including the ongoing programme of rail reform, funding arrangements, and the pipeline of projects expected to be taken forward, following the recent UK Government funding announcements.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this important discussion. We would be happy to facilitate your attendance virtually, should that be more convenient for you.

If you are content in principle to attend, the Clerk to the Committee will be in touch to confirm the arrangements in due course.

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.



Agenda Item 2.4

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

Advertising Standards Authority
Castle House, 37-45 Paul Street
London EC2A 4LS
Telephone 020 7492 2222
Email enquiries@asa.org.uk
www.asa.org.uk

6 August 2025
By email

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Ref: Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) rulings on greener homes ads

I'm writing to share some information about our ongoing work to tackle misleading environmental claims.

The ASA is the UK's independent regulator of advertising by legitimate businesses across all media.

We recognise the role businesses increasingly play in meeting climate targets, and the role that ad regulation has in ensuring that related advertising claims are responsible. People and businesses want to make more sustainable choices, but navigating green claims is not always easy. That's why we have taken a frontline role in tackling misleading green claims in ads through our ongoing and wide-ranging [Climate Change and Environment project](#) (CCE). We've established a dedicated 'Green Team' to embed specialist knowledge across the organisation and to provide a central contact for advertisers seeking help and advice on environmental claims.

I would like to bring to your attention four rulings published on 6 August 2025 which form part of our CCE project. The ASA took the decision to ban ads by [Aira Home Ltd](#), [EDF Energy Ltd](#) and [Energystore Ltd](#) for omitting material information about the government funding available for installing heat pumps and insulation products. As the UK's frontline regulator, we have a duty to police all claims to the same high standards to ensure a level

Legal, decent, honest and truthful

Chair The Rt Hon the Baroness Morgan of Cotes **Chief Executive** Guy Parker

ASA Council 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

The Advertising Standards Authority Limited, registered in England No 733214, Castle House, 37-45 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LS

The Advertising Standards Authority (Broadcast) Limited, registered in England No 05130991, Castle House, 37-45 Paul Street, London EC2A 4LS

playing field for business so that consumers get the information they need to make informed decisions when it comes to the environment. After careful consideration, we found these ads breached our rules as they failed to include that eligibility criteria applied which was likely to mislead consumers. On the other hand, we chose to not uphold against [Ovo Energy Ltd](#) because the ad included “We can check if you're eligible for the Great British Insulation Scheme”, and we concluded that consumers would understand that eligibility for the funding was not automatic and unlikely to mislead.

These rulings form part of a wider piece of work on advertising for greener heating and insulation products. The ads were identified for investigation following intelligence gathering by our [Active Ad Monitoring system](#), which uses AI to proactively monitor ads in high priority areas, such as environmental claims, and was responsible for us processing 28 million ads last year.

Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss our CCE work, including these rulings, or have any other advertising-related concerns.

Kind Regards,

Grace Curley

Public Affairs Adviser, ASA

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/FM/0337/25

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

22 July 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, to notify you that I attended the 43rd British-Irish Council Summit, hosted by the Northern Ireland Executive in County Down, which took place on 12 and 13 of June.

I would like to draw your attention to my [Written Statement](#) and to the BIC [communiqué](#) summarising the outcomes of the Summit.

The Summit theme was '*The Role of AI in Reform and Transformation*'. I shared the Welsh Government's experience and commitment to harnessing AI technologies for public sector reform and transformation in Wales, including highlighting guidance developed by Wales' Workforce Partnership Council.

Whilst at the Summit, I also had the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with a number of leaders from the Council's other member administrations.

I have copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan

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.

Ken Skates AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

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

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

04 September 2025

Dear Mike

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Transport Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the next meeting of the Transport Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee, which will take place on 16th September 2025.

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Scottish Government, will be chairing the meeting, and it will cover the topics of Road Safety, HGV Decarbonisation and Vehicle Emissions Trading Scheme (VETS).

I will provide an update after the meeting.

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

Yours sincerely

Ken Skates AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@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: HID/PO/432/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

4 September 2025

Dear Mike, Llŷr,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of a meeting of the Interministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change, which will take place on the 21 October 2025 in Edinburgh. I anticipate the discussion will focus on the Climate Change Committee's advice on the UK's Seventh Carbon Budget.

I will provide an update to you after the meeting.

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: HID/PO/442/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

12 September 2025

Dear Mike, Llŷr,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of a meeting of the Interministerial Group on Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change, which will take place virtually on 17 September 2025. I anticipate the discussion will focus on heat decarbonisation in buildings. Given the meeting's focus on housing, the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government will be representing the Welsh Government at this meeting.

Please accept my apologies for the short notice provided. The timing of the meeting was confirmed this week. I will provide an update to you after the meeting.

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: HID/PO/444/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

15 September 2025

Dear Mike, Llŷr,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of a cancellation of a meeting of the Interministerial Group for Net Zero, Energy and Climate Change, which was due take place virtually on 17 September 2025.

Please accept my apologies for the short notice provided.

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: HID-PO-408-25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair - Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

22 August 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 will be held on 8 September. I will be representing the Welsh Government and chairing the meeting.

The meeting is expected to focus on water quality, the EU-UK Common Understanding Agreement, Fishing and Coastal Growth Fund, and the Sustainable Farming Scheme. After the meeting I will update you on discussions and a communique will be issued.

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 HID/PO/446/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair - Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

16 September 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 8 September 2025 has been cancelled. Officials are working to identify a new date. I will update the Committee when a new date is identified.

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/JH/1886/25

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

11 August 2025

Dear Mike,

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to notify you that a Budget Cover Transfer between UK Government, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and Welsh Government, to support digital inclusion activity in Wales has been agreed.

The funding is made up of £185,418 (revenue) and £254,950 (capital) which will further our work aligned to the Digital Strategy for Wales, Mission Two, and the Well-being of Future Generations Act National Indicator, Status of digital inclusion.

The funding is for Financial Year 2025-2026 only.

- Welsh Government will share learnings and best practice for how the funding is used to support digital inclusion with UK Government and devolved Governments.
- Welsh Government will continue to be in open, engaged, dialogue with UK Government and devolved Governments on approaches to tackling digital exclusion and work aligned to the Minimum Digital Living Standard (MDLS).

I have also copied this letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies MS and the chairs of the Social Justice Committee, Health and Social Care Committee, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee, Local Government and Housing Committee, Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip

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

By email: SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

12th September 2025

Dear Chair,

I wanted to get in touch with you directly following an announcement of our transformation programme yesterday, designed to safeguard essential services, strengthen resilience, reduce costs and ensure that as much customer funding as possible is directed into frontline water and wastewater services, delivering the best possible value money for our customers. Yesterday's announcement confirmed that we plan to reduce our workforce by about 12% over the next 18-24 – up to 500 roles out of 4,000.

We briefed our employees of the changes prior to the announcement going public. We expect a reduction of 2-300 roles in the Phase 1, which we will be consulting on in the coming weeks, and expect a further 2 Phases with the remaining roles in due course.

As part of this programme, we are reviewing our entire cost base, including goods and services procured and the focus of the redundancies will be on driving efficiencies in back-office and managerial functions while protecting frontline services.

At a time when customers' water bills have increased significantly, it is only right that we look for every opportunity to keep our own costs to a minimum.

The transformation will help us reshape the company, enable greater use of technology and data and redesign processes and ways of working. These changes are intended to maximise efficiency so that every pound possible is invested in customer service, environmental improvements and critical network investment, while also ensuring the company remains financially resilient and sustainable in the long term.

This programme comes at a time of significant pressure across the water sector. Increased investment requirements, combined with recent credit rating downgrades, have underscored the need for decisive action. The restructuring will strengthen our ability to meet these challenges while continuing to deliver high-quality services for customers. The programme will also ensure that the business remains on a long term financially stable and sustainable footing.

We are committed to managing these changes with care and fairness and our clear priority is to reduce headcount through voluntary exits, retraining and redeployment wherever possible, in order to minimise the impact on colleagues.

Next month, Roch Cheroux, my successor as Chief Executive of Dŵr Cymru, will join the company before officially taking on the role in the new year. Following the announcement of our transformation programme yesterday, we are aware of a call from Committee Member Janet Finch-Saunders MS for Dŵr Cymru's new Chief Executive to come before the Committee, explain our plan and answer questions from committee members.

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.

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

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.

However, I just wanted to be clear that Roch has not yet joined the company and was not involved in the decision making of the transformation programme to date.

I would, however, be very happy to meet with you directly to discuss any questions you may have on this and will of course introduce you to Roch when he is post too.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Perry', written in a cursive style.

Peter Perry
Chief Executive
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

Agenda Item 2.7

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

16 September 2025

Dear Chair,

September 2025 Committee report – The response to recent storms

I'm writing on behalf of the Association of British Insurers (the ABI) to welcome the above Committee report and the focus on making Wales more resilient to future storms and floods. This is all the more vital as climate change increases both the severity and the frequency of extreme weather events, with insurers at the forefront of dealing with their impact.

We support many of the report's recommendations, in particular those around flood resilience measures and the need for long-term planning and investment. We also note the recommendations around insurance, specifically Recommendation 16 on promoting existing insurance schemes to residents in high-risk areas. The ABI shares the Committee's view that insurance must be clear and accessible, especially for vulnerable communities.

As the representative body for insurance providers, we are already actively working across Wales to improve the awareness and understanding of insurance products. Our ['Responding to Floods: What You Need to Know'](#) Guide, which is also [available in Welsh](#), was developed in association with the National Flood Forum and is a consumer-friendly document to help raise awareness of flood risk and advise households on what to expect from their insurer following a flood. We regularly distribute this to communities, MSs and MPs before and during extreme weather events, alongside [advice on preparing for storms](#). We also share advice on finding insurance, including the [Flood Insurance Directory](#) operated by the ABI, BIBA and Flood Re. This is a service that connects householders and businesses to specialist insurers and lists providers offering cover under the Flood Re scheme.

In addition to our written resources, we work closely with the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and other partners including Flood Re and the British Red Cross to engage with higher-risk communities in Wales on the ground and help them navigate insurance. Since 2018, we've attended community flood network events organised by Natural Resources Wales in locations including Cardiff, Bangor, Merthyr Tydfil and Aberystwyth. Ensuring trusted community voices are present at these events is an important part of the dialogue.

We recognise the report's evidence and recommendations on access to affordable flood insurance for residents and businesses and would be very happy to work with local authorities on their role in

offering advice and signposting. We will also discuss how we can make our communications clearer and more accessible with the Welsh Government and with Flood Re.

Finally, we would note that we received an invitation in January to submit written evidence to the Committee and requested a meeting with your clerks to understand the inquiry's scope. Unfortunately, we did not receive a response. Given the prominence of insurance concerns in the final report and discussions during oral evidence sessions, we would have appreciated the chance to appear before the Committee.

We would welcome the opportunity to support the Committee and other stakeholders as the recommendations in this report are taken forward. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to discuss this and how we can work together to strengthen Wales's climate resilience.

Yours sincerely,



Alastair Ross
Assistant Director, Head of Public Policy for Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland

Agenda Item 2.8

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/PO/447/2025

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

16 September 2025

Dear Llyr,

I wrote to Minister Shanks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 2 September to provide my consent to the inclusion in the Statement of Strategic Priorities to Great British Energy matters which would be within the legislative competence of the Senedd. The Statement of Strategic Priorities has now been published and can be found [here](#).

Section 5 of the Great British Energy Act 2025 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Statement of Strategic Priorities (SSP) for Great British Energy (GBE). Section 5(6) requires the consent of Welsh Ministers to the inclusion in the SSP of anything which concerns a matter, provision about which would be within the legislative competence of Senedd, if contained in an Act of the Senedd. Minister Shanks wrote to me seeking Welsh Ministers' consent to the inclusion of the references to 'clean energy' in the SSP so far as they relate to carbon capture, usage and storage technologies.

Partnership working is essential to the success of GBE and it will be important for the UK Government to deliver on its commitment that GBE will work collaboratively and in partnership with devolved governments, local government and communities. I also welcome the commitment in the SSP that the work of GBE will add to our local and community energy successes which have been a keen focus of our work in Wales to date.

My letter to Minister Shanks highlighted my view that the basis on which Welsh Ministers would consent to the SSP would be much wider than that highlighted in his letter and that the Senedd's competence in matters touched on by the SSP go beyond merely those concerning carbon capture, usage and storage technologies.

I also stated the paragraph describing energy activity here in Wales was less detailed than I would like and I have asked for additional work to identify how GBE will work with us to support delivery of the strategic vision articulated in national, regional and local spatial plans in relation to our shared energy and climate ambitions.

The Governance section of the SSP does not refer to how GBE activities will be closely aligned with devolved activities, especially given the complex interface between GBE's remit and devolved areas in Wales. A high level SSP is not the place for this detail to be set out. However, I will require our

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.

officials to continue to work on this to set out a process that clarifies how GBE activities will be complementary to Welsh policies and delivery processes and establish a dispute resolution process to our joint satisfaction.

GBE's role in our energy future is important for the whole of the UK and its success is something all Governments of the UK can contribute to. My officials are already working to share their experience of delivery expertise with GBE and I have expressed my desire that GBE will build on the positive collaboration to date to increase the scale and pace of work made necessary by the climate emergency and energy crisis.

That pace on this occasion meant the UK Government requested consideration of the SSP within very short timescales. I was disappointed there was insufficient time allowed to write to the Committee and invite your consideration in advance of my decision. Although I have given my consent to the SSP, I have asked for additional work on governance to provide clarity on how the policies and priorities of Wales will be incorporated into GBE's work going forward. With that in mind, I welcome any views you and the Committee may have on the SSP as published. My officials will also work with UK Government to ensure additional time is provided for the next iteration of the SSP to allow time to engage with Senedd Committees.

I will also be writing to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and will issue a Written Statement to inform Members of the Senedd.

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

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

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

Mark Isherwood MS, Chair

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

3 July 2025

Dear Mark,

Welsh Government staffing capacity and delivery of the Programme for Government

As we near the end of the current Senedd term, I am writing to draw your Committee's attention to ongoing concerns regarding the Welsh Government's staffing capacity and its ability to deliver on its Programme for Government commitments.

The Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee has consistently raised questions about whether sufficient resourcing exists within Welsh Government departments to meet the scale and ambition of its policy agenda. We recently wrote to the Permanent Secretary with a series of questions relating to staffing and resources within the biodiversity and nature recovery portfolio.

I would urge the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee to consider whether this matter requires further investigation before the end of this Senedd term. We suggest that the following issues require consideration:

- Workforce planning and its alignment with Programme for Government priorities;
- The nature and impact of staffing constraints on key policy areas, including biodiversity and marine policy; and
- Governance and oversight processes for the allocation of resources, particularly staffing, within Welsh Government.

I believe that such an inquiry would provide a valuable insight into the Welsh Government's organisational resilience and its ability to deliver for the people of Wales.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further if that would be helpful.

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**

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

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

8 August 2025

Draft Budget scrutiny 2026-27

Dear Huw,

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has started its preparations for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2026-27.

We understand the detailed draft budget will be published on 3 November 2025. We anticipate holding a scrutiny session with you later in November and Committee staff will be in touch with your office in due course to arrange a suitable date for the session.

To assist the Committee in its preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information to address the matters set out in Annex 1 in advance of the scrutiny session. Of course, you should not feel limited by our request and are welcome to address any other matters you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

Yours sincerely,



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

General

- Details of your priorities and how they are reflected in budget allocations.
- A detailed explanation of how budgetary priorities were determined, particularly in light of inflationary pressures and fiscal constraints?
- A detailed explanation of how the draft budget reflects commitments made in prior financial years, with particular reference to the Committee's report on the 2025-26 draft budget.
- Information on the impact of UK Government policy decisions on budget allocations.
- Detail how the Welsh Government is mainstreaming tackling the nature and climate emergencies across its departments through the budget setting process.

Legislation

- How the draft budget provides for the delivery of newly enacted and planned Welsh Government legislation.

Environment

How the draft budget provides for:

- Delivery of the Biodiversity Deep Dive.
- Delivery of the forthcoming refreshed Nature Recovery Action Plan, Nature Networks Programme (including specific allocation for the Nature Networks Fund), Local Places for Nature Programme, the National Peatlands Action Programme and Natur am Byth.
- Developing legally binding biodiversity targets.
- Monitoring programmes for biodiversity.
- Developing an approach for private investment for nature.
- Delivery of the circular economy strategy, *Beyond Recycling*, including the development and delivery of a Deposit Return Scheme.
- Managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including an update on delivery of the MPA network management framework and action plan.

- Assessment and identification of gaps within the MPA network, including improvements to the evidence base to inform the designation of further Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in Welsh waters.
- Funding for the delivery of a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along Wales' coastline.
- Improving water quality, including support for the Better River Water Quality taskforce to take forward actions arising from the Stantec report.
- Implementation of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, including the take up of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant and Natural Flood Risk Management Fund.
- Support for the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales and the development of more permanent environmental governance arrangements.
- National Parks, including the proposed new National Park
- Countryside access
- Development of legally binding air quality targets and delivery of duties under the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Act 2024

Climate Change

- The impact of proposed UK Government policies on Welsh Government efforts to support net zero.

And detail of how the draft budget allocations support:

- Delivery of the policies and proposals in the Net Zero Wales plan which are relevant to the remit of this committee.
- Development of plans to deliver Carbon Budget 3
- Climate adaptation action, and detail of specific allocations to support delivery of the climate adaptation strategy.
- Implementation of the Woodlands for Wales Strategy and recommendations of the 2021 Trees and Timber Deep Dive, including delivering the National Forest and increasing the rate of tree-planting.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

- Details of budget allocations for NRW.
- Details of any changes in service delivery or project timelines relating to NRW due to the current budgetary constraints.
- Details of any new functions, duties, or responsibilities you expect NRW to take on during the budget period and the funding that has been allocated for those purposes.
- Progress of the Case for Change process.
- The latest position on NRW's potential tax liability and its payment to HMRC, funded by the Welsh Government, including:
 - Details of the repayment terms agreed with NRW and how the Welsh Government satisfied itself that this is affordable; and
 - What provision has been made in both the 2026/27 budget and the 27/28 draft budget for any potential further liabilities.

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

Ken Skates MS,
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

8 August 2025

Draft Budget scrutiny 2026-27

Dear Ken,

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has started its preparations for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2026-27.

We understand the detailed draft budget will be published on 3 November 2025. We anticipate holding a scrutiny session with you later in November and Committee staff will be in touch with your office in due course to arrange a suitable date for the session.

To assist the Committee in its preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information to address the matters set out in Annex 1 in advance of the scrutiny session. Of course, you should not feel limited by our request and are welcome to address any other matters you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

Yours sincerely,



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

General

- Details of your priorities and how they are reflected in budget allocations.
- A detailed explanation of how budgetary priorities were determined, particularly in light of inflationary pressures and fiscal constraints.
- A detailed explanation of how the draft budget reflect commitments made in prior financial years, with particular reference to the Committee's report on the 2025-26 draft budget.
- Information on the impact of UK Government policy decisions on budget allocations.

Legislation

- How the draft budget provides for delivery of newly enacted and planned Welsh Government legislation.

Climate Change

Detail of how the draft budget allocations support:

- Delivery of the policies and proposals in the Net Zero Wales plan which fall within your portfolio.

Transport

Detail of how the draft budget allocations support:

- Delivery of the rail franchise and the Welsh Government's rail infrastructure priorities.
- Delivery of the North East Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales Metros.
- The development of Transport for Wales, including its financial stability and the gap between operational costs and farebox revenues; also including a breakdown of TfW's full budget allocation for 2026-27, itemising its corporate budget alongside allocations for delivery of specific programmes as well as rail franchise commitments.
- Investment (both maintenance and improvement) in the trunk road and motorway network
- Maintenance of local highways.
- Development and delivery of bus franchising and the Bus Services (Wales) Bill

- Support for bus and community transport services, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for 2026-27 compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and the table should be broken down by individual funding stream.
- Support for EV charging infrastructure provision and the strategy / action plan delivery. including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for 2026-27 compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and the table should be broken down by individual funding stream.
- Support for local transport priorities, including delivery of Regional Transport Plans and support for CJs on transport. This should include details of which, if any, previous budget lines have been incorporated into any new regional allocations and detail of any ring-fenced aspects of such allocations.
- How the draft budget provides for delivery of active travel policy.

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

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Tom Carrick

Access and Conservation Officer for the BMC (Cymru)

21 July 2025

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June (received on 1 July) and for your interest in the work of the CCEI Committee.

In light of the increasing interest in the Committee's role in the scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales (NRW), I thought it would be helpful to clarify the remit of the Committee insofar as it relates to NRW.

The Committee

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has been set up by the Senedd to look at policy and legislation, and to hold the Welsh Government to account in specific areas. These areas include climate change policy, the environment, energy; planning; transport, and connectivity.

Our work programme

Our current work programme includes scrutiny of Welsh government proposed legislation, including the Bus Services (Wales) Bill the Environmental Governance Bill.

The Committee is also taking forward inquiries such as the response to the recent storms, and the UK-EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. More information on our current and future work programme can be found on the [Committee's website](#).

Finally, the Committee also performs a role scrutinising a number of external bodies, this includes [Transport for Wales](#), the [National Infrastructure Commission for Wales \(NICW\)](#), the [Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales \(IEPAW\)](#) and [Natural Resources Wales \(NRW\)](#).

Natural Resources Wales

As a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, NRW is accountable to Welsh Ministers (currently the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Huw Irranca-Davies MS) and subject to scrutiny by Senedd Committees.

NRW's Board is responsible for ensuring it exercises its statutory functions appropriately and effectively. It is therefore NRW's responsibility to make operational decisions but in doing so, it is accountable to the Welsh Government and subject to Senedd scrutiny.

The annual scrutiny of Natural Resources Wales

The Committee held an annual scrutiny session with representatives of NRW on 12 March. [You can read the transcript of the session here.](#)

The Committee welcomes correspondence from interested parties, has taken up these issues with NRW as part of its general scrutiny and has reflected on evidence to consider its final report.

However, given the Committee's remit and the breadth of its responsibilities, the Committee is not in a position to enter into detailed oversight of operational decisions taken by NRW.

Nevertheless, the Committee did consider the issues around the visitor centres as part of its general scrutiny and made recommendation for both NRW and the Welsh Government on these matters.

The Committee has been extremely concerned at the situation with regard to the visitor centres and any potential impact on the wider sites. Whilst we have been assured that access to the sites is not impacted, we recommended that NRW must urgently provide a credible plan to reopen all three visitor centres.

The Committee's report is published [here](#) and both the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales have now responded to each specific recommendation.

Next steps

Following this, a plenary debate will be held in the Senedd, where any individual Member of the Senedd will be able to contribute to the debate. This is likely to take place in the autumn.

You can keep up to date with this and the rest of the work of the Committee [on our webpage.](#)

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.

Independent Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales

Welsh Government Offices

Cathays Park 2

King Edward VII Avenue

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

September 2025

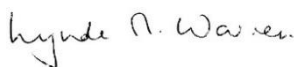
Dear Chair

I am providing you with the following commentary from my Deputy, Anna Heslop who has been engaged with our work on the SPA network in Wales in response to a submission we received on the perceived implementation delays.

This letter is for information only and I am not requesting a formal response from you.

I shall also provide this letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs for his information.

Yours sincerely



Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales

Independent Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales

SPA Network in Wales Review letter of Advice to Welsh Ministers

September 2025

Special Protection Areas in Wales

The IEPAW is in receipt of a submission relating to delays to the implementation of full Special Protection Area (SPA) network in Wales (IEPAW028). The submission focussed on the significant delays to the completion of the UK network and a complaint was simultaneously made to the OEP and a concern raised to Environmental Standards Scotland.

The legal requirement

Regulation 15 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2015 (as amended) states that:

(1) The appropriate authority must classify as special protection areas such sites in England and Wales as the authority considers necessary to ensure that the objective in paragraph (2) is met.

(2) The objective referred to in paragraph (1) is that those sites across the United Kingdom's territory which are most suitable in number and size for—

(a) the conservation of the species listed in Annex 1 to the new Wild Birds Directive which naturally occur in that territory, and

(b) the conservation of regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in Annex 1 which naturally occur in that territory, are classified as special protection areas.

The obligation in Regulation 15 stems from Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive). Long established case law of the CJEU indicates that although appropriate authorities have a certain margin of discretion in the classification of SPAs, the argument that they have discretion as to the choice and delimitation of such areas and the timing of their classification is not accepted (C-550/90). Further case law indicates that

appropriate authorities must use the best available evidence when identifying SPAs (e.g. C-235/04, C-334/04).

The Scientific evidence

The JNCC's UK SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group (SPAR SWG) Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies Working Group (SNCB Working Group) has responsibility for providing the scientific advice relating to reviews of the SPA network in the UK.

In its latest report, *The Status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: the Third Network Review (Phase 2) Summary Advice and Options (Third Network Review)* published in May 2025, the SNCB Working Group indicates that 12 existing protected areas in Wales require updating either to expand their geographical footprint or their list of qualifying species, as well as 2 cross border sites shared with England. The report also identifies 15 new sites or search areas in Wales which meet the criteria for classification as new SPAs, as well as one which spans the border between England and Wales.

It should be noted that Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is an active member of the SNCB Working Group.

Implementation plans

The Third Network Review also highlights the need for a prioritised work programme from each of the four-country level devolved administrations, outlining a timescale for the classification of new sites; the extension of the boundaries of existing sites; and/or the revision of SPA site Citations.

We understand, from discussions with stakeholders, that in 2020, in anticipation of the publication of the Third Network Review, NRW convened a Wales SPA Expert Working Group and developed a prioritised framework for the implementation of the Third Network Review in Wales. These stakeholders were informed that the recommendations contained in that prioritised framework had been endorsed by the NRW Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Board by the summer of 2020 and had been provided to Welsh Government.

Whilst we accept that the passage of 5 years may require a review and an update to that plan, it would appear that a significant amount of work has been conducted to enable a swift implementation of the recommendations of the Third Network Review in Wales.

The implications of continued delay

It is clear that protected bird species do better in countries with a greater number of SPAs and with larger and more established SPAs¹. A 2022 peer review study² found that population trends for birds of higher conservation concern correlated positively with SPA coverage.

Delays to the implementation of the Third Network Review could have negative impacts on the status of key bird species in Wales. The UK Breeding Bird Survey³ shows, for example, a 76% decline in the population of breeding curlew in Wales since monitoring began in 1995, with the decline between 2016 and 2024 alone standing at 37%. The Third Network Review recommends classification of a new SPA in Mynydd Hiraethog and boundary changes to expand three existing upland SPAs in Wales.

Next Steps

Given the expert evidence gathered and presented in the Third Network Review, the existence of a prioritised framework for implementation in Wales and the legal requirement contained in Regulation 15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2015, IEPAW consider it incumbent upon Welsh Government and NRW to take swift action to implement the recommendations of the Third Network Review.

Ministers will be aware that the OEP in England and Northern Ireland has written to DEFRA, DAERA and Natural England to issue investigation notices in relation to this matter and that the OEP is currently considering the responses to those notices.

The IEPAW does not have equivalent powers to issue such notices, however, given that a prioritised framework for implementation in Wales already exists, one would expect Wales to be

¹ Donald, P.F. et al (2007) International Conservation Policy Delivers Benefits for Birds in Europe, Science, Vol. 317, Issue 5839, pp. 810-813 <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1146002>

² [Benefits of protected area networks for breeding bird populations and communities - Sanderson - 2023 - Animal Conservation - Wiley Online Library](#)

³ [Population trend graphs | BTO](#)

in an advanced position by comparison. We very much hope that the prioritised framework for implementation can be finalised, published, and that implementation can begin before this file is passed to the new Office of Environmental Governance for Wales.

The IEPAW **recommends** that Welsh Ministers swiftly and transparently establish a timetable under which it will:

1. Publish the (updated if necessary) prioritised framework for implementation; and
2. Implement the Third Network Review in line with that prioritised framework.

IEPAW further urges Welsh Ministers to ensure that NRW is provided with sufficient resources (in terms of additional manpower, budget, and support) to implement the recommendations of the Third Network Review in Wales.

Welsh Ministers should note that OEP has also expanded the scope of their investigation to include the need for a marine SPA review to be conducted. IEPAW further **recommends** that Welsh Ministers work closely with the UK administrations to ensure the timely completion of a marine SPA review.

Yours sincerely



Anna Heslop

Deputy Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales

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

Our ref/ein cyf: HID-PO-477-25

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

29 September 2025

Dear Llyr,

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

At the committee evidence session on 18 September, I committed to provide clarity on

- 1) Engagement with the WLGA during the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process
- 2) Outline the statement made in committee providing the rationale for excluding the requirement for both Long-Term and Short-Term Biodiversity targets on the face of the Bill

Engagement with the WLGA during the RIA Process

Throughout the policy development, officials have been engaging with WLGA directly and within stakeholder groups, alongside individual local authorities, to understand and discuss the potential impact of a variety of policy options on Local Authorities. This engagement provided essential input into the options that are presented in the Regulatory Impact Assessment and informed the recommended options.

To support the development of the Cost Benefit Analysis for the Regulatory Impact Assessment, Welsh Government contracted the services of The Young Foundation. The Young Foundation held a series of one-to-one interviews with stakeholders, convened a review panel and sought feedback from Stakeholders on their draft report.

The Young Foundation held a one-to-one interview with the WLGA on 9 January. The WLGA were also invited to three different panel sessions across January and February, and their feedback was sought on the draft report on 5 March. WLGA declined the invitations to attend the panel sessions and no comments were received from WLGA on the draft report.

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.

Pack Page 45

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 Young Foundation's [final report](#) was published alongside the Bill on Introduction in June. The Regulatory Impact Assessment builds upon the Quantative and Qualitative Analysis presented in this report.

My officials will engage further with the WLGA to ensure that any concerns that have arisen since the RIA was published can be considered. However, we are confident that the RIA reflects a wide cross-section of views sought during engagement with stakeholders, including local authorities, and are confident in the strength of the estimates provided.

A further Regulatory Impact Assessment will be undertaken when introducing the Biodiversity Targets through Secondary Legislation and we will be undertaking further engagement with stakeholders to inform this. We will ensure that all key stakeholders are fully engaged in this process.

Outline the statement made in committee providing the rationale for excluding the requirement for both Long-Term and Short-Term Biodiversity targets on the face of the Bill

By not stating a specific requirement or timeframe for targets on the face of the Bill, we are able to adopt a more flexible approach, allowing us to set a range of short, medium or long-term targets. We believe this flexibility is required to address the complexities of environmental systems which do not always respond in a linear fashion to interventions.

We want to make sure that we are able to set the most appropriate timeframe for different targets. For example, a target to determine the condition of all of our protected sites is likely to be a short-term target. On the other hand, a habitat extent and condition target is likely to require a longer timeframe as it can take decades for some habitats to become established. The Bill as currently drafted would enable us to deliver both of these options.

We are committed to ensuring that the right targets are developed that will deliver the impact required to tackle the nature emergency. Each target will be tested using scenarios and modelling to ensure it is ambitious and can meaningfully contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss yet are deliverable and achievable. The timescales are likely be different for targets in each of the priority areas reflecting the differing range of actions to drive the change. Specifying timescales on the face of the Bill could, therefore, limit the types of targets that could be considered.

As I outlined in Committee, I would welcome any suggestions on how setting such timeframes for target durations can be achieved while also allowing for the flexibility to set a range of targets to meet the complexities of environmental systems.

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

Llyr Gruffydd
Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

28 August 2025

Annwyl Llyr,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the new Chair of Transport for Wales (TfW).

I want to thank you and the members of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee for the opportunity to answer your questions during the pre-appointment scrutiny held on Thursday 19 June. Your questions were thought-provoking, and I greatly benefitted from being challenged on many of the areas I intend to prioritise in my role as Chair, such as Bus and Rail Reform and ensuring that all of Wales benefits from improvements in transport.

As the Committee pointed out, TfW is entering a transformative phase, with major programmes underway including bus franchising, the completion of the South Wales Metro, and the development of Network North Wales. I will work closely with James Price and the team at TfW on the delivery of these major improvements that are central to economic growth, sustainability and wider access to homes, jobs education and opportunity.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Committee to brief you on my plans for taking the Board 'on the road' and other matters that were raised by members. I know that the TfW team have already reached out to the Clerk to set this up. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss.

*Cofion cymerus,
Vernon*

Vernon Everitt
Chair, Transport for Wales

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Senedd Committees

Via e-mail

8 July 2025

Consultation: Reviewing Committee Effectiveness in the Sixth Senedd

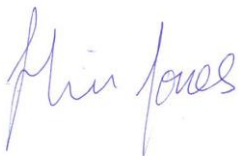
Dear Chair,

You will be aware that the Chairs' Forum is currently considering how committees have operated during the Sixth Senedd. The aim of this work is to identify whether committee procedures and practices can be improved to ensure the scrutiny function is as effective as possible, and to use this information to inform the Seventh Senedd. The Forum is keen to consider wider cultural issues around the operation of Senedd committees, as well as practical matters such as size and function.

The Future Senedd Committee has also made a [number of recommendations](#) to the Forum about the committee system and considerations for the Seventh Senedd, and these have been factored into our work on this matter.

The Forum has launched a [consultation](#), and we would be grateful for the views of individual Committees on the questions in the [consultation document](#), and any reflections that you may consider relevant by **12 September 2025**.

Yours sincerely,





Elin Jones MS/AS

Chair

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





Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 llywydd@senedd.cymru
 0300 200 7403

Pack Page 60

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 llywydd@senedd.wales
 0300 200 7403



Our ref: FM/PO/371/25

Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Chair
Chairs Forum

23 July 2025

Dear Elin,

I attended the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister on 13 December 2024, and whilst I made clear my view that Senedd Committees do great work, I also expressed concern about the volume of recommendations which are often made by Committees to the Welsh Government.

As a government, we need to be realistic about our ability to deliver Committee recommendations and of the need to consider recommendations in the context of the limited resources which are available. If the current volume continues, the government is likely to need to reject more recommendations going forward to ensure we can continue to focus on delivering for the people of Wales.

I am keen to get to a position where Committees, in carrying out their work, concentrate on fewer recommendations, with a focus on specific and clearly defined recommendations which will have the greatest impact as appropriate to the matter under consideration.

In making these observations, I do not seek to fetter the critical work of our Senedd Committees in scrutinising and holding the government to account. Targeting efforts and experience in this way however, will help us collectively to continue to deliver effectively for the people of Wales.

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 would be grateful if this could be fed back to the Chair of each Committee, who I'm sure will wish to consider prior to the expansion of the Senedd. We will also respond with further detail to your letter of 8 July seeking views as part of the Chairs' Forum review of Committee operations in the sixth Senedd.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eluned Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Eluned Morgan