

# Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

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Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee room 4 Tŷ Hywel and video Conference via Zoom	Marc Wyn Jones Committee Clerk
Meeting date: 22 October 2025	0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.15	<a href="mailto:SeneddClimate@senedd.wales">SeneddClimate@senedd.wales</a>

## Hybrid

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**Private pre-meeting (09.00–09.15)**

**Public meeting (09.15–12.30)**

### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.15)

### 2 Bus Services (Wales) Bill – Stage 2 Proceedings

(09.15–12.30)

Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery

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

Catrin Dellar, Head of Bus Reform – Welsh Government

Cléo Senior-Lemaitre, Senior Lawyer – Welsh Government

Documents relevant to Stage 2 proceedings will be available on the [Bill page](#).

The Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee agreed on [9 October 2025](#), under Standing Order 26.21, that the order of consideration for Stage 2 proceedings would be:



Sections 1–44; Long Title.

### **3 Papers to note (12.30)**

#### **3.1 Rewilding Wales**

(Pages 1 – 4)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Rewilding Britain to the Chair in relation to rewilding in Wales

#### **3.2 Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025**

(Pages 5 – 7)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair in relation to the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025

8th October, 2025

## **A Wilder Wales: Urgent Action for Nature and Communities**

Dear Llyr Gruffydd MS,

Wales has an opportunity to lead the way in building a stronger, fairer rural economy—one rooted in our culture, language, and deep connection to the land and sea. To seize this moment, we must move beyond conventional thinking and give nature the chance to lead. By supporting rewilding, the Welsh Government can unlock investment, create new green jobs, and revitalise communities, while safeguarding the landscapes and heritage that define our nation for future generations.

Rewilding is already happening in Wales. It is practical, cost-effective, and globally recognised. But it is not yet supported in policy at the scale required. The moment to change this is now, as we close in on the launch of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and the passing of the Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity (Wales) Bill.

### **Five Transformational Steps**

We call on Welsh Government to:

1. **Pay for Natural Grazing** – Embed rewilding and natural process-led approaches, that create dynamic and complex landscapes, where wildlife can move and adapt, in the Sustainable Farming Scheme. Reward land managers who restore ecosystems and not just fragmented habitats, creating a meaningful contribution to the 30% land-for-nature target.
2. **Lead by Example** – Empower Natural Resources Wales to manage the public estate in ways that show-case large-scale restoration, beginning with upland reserves and uneconomic forests.
3. **Bring Back Lost Species** – Create and adopt a national keystone species reintroduction strategy, starting with beavers, to ensure we see their return to the major river catchments of Wales within the next 5 years. This will strengthen climate resilience and create the conditions for the restoration of ecosystems.
4. **Empower Communities** – Create a Community Right-to-Buy for land, as part of a commitment to a Land Reform Act for Wales, and a Nature Creation Licence for the ocean, giving local people the power to restore ecosystems and build green jobs.
5. **Define and Deliver OECMs** – Make large-scale restoration central to biodiversity targets under the Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Bill, using OECM's as a key framework to bring in fresh thinking, approaches and delivery routes to the creation of new land for nature and community. .



## A Vision for Wales

Imagine a Wales where wildlife flourishes again, lost species return, rivers run freely, and restored seas protect our coasts. A Wales where communities lead this change, building new green livelihoods while strengthening culture, language, and local economies. This vision is within reach—if we act with courage now.

## Call to Action

We urge the Welsh Government to remove the barriers to large-scale restoration, to put communities at the heart of change, and to make Wales a world leader in rewilding.

We would like to, please, request a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss how these five steps can be delivered together.

Signed,

James Hitchcock

Wales Rewilding Policy and Advocacy Lead  
Rewilding Britain

Alastair Hughes



David Gillam



Mike Eccles

Director



Phillipa Gibson



Grant Piesley

Director



Grant Piesley

Director



Margaret Minhinnik

Director



Sujatha Thuladai



Hannah Garcia

Director



David Thorpe



Ru Hartwell



Suzanne Iuppa





Dan McCallum  
Director



Jules Wagstaff



Climate and Community  
Real Action on Climate Change

Ruth Harding  
Clerk



Brian Heddwch  
Director



Ken Moon  
Chair



Jim Bowen  
Director



Jim Bowen  
Director



Tammie Esslemont  
Co-Founder



Chloe and Tom  
Constable  
Founders and  
Rewilders



Sam Ward  
CEO



Jon Moses  
Co-Director



Chris Blake





Tash Rielly  
Chair

Gareth Ludkin  
Senior Policy and  
Projects Officer

James Wallace  
CEO

Louise Bodnar  
Co-ordinator



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/2376/25

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

14 October 2025

Dear Llŷr,

I wish to inform the Committee of the intention to consent to the application of the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025 ('the Regulations') to Wales. The Regulations will be made by the Secretary of State and apply to Wales, England and Scotland.

I received a letter from Baroness Hayman of Ullock, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, requesting consent to the Regulations. The Regulations amend Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 ("the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation") establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 ("the Plant Health Regulation") as regards protective measures against pests of plants. In accordance with the Plant Health Regulation, the Secretary of State approached the Welsh and Scottish Ministers for consent to the application of the Regulations to Wales and Scotland respectively.

The Regulations protect biosecurity by introducing or amending protective measures against high-risk pests of plants. The Regulations support trade by removing the import requirements for pests which no longer meet the criteria for regulation as a GB Quarantine Pest or GB Pest Free Area Pest. They make amendments to:

- a) Move the pests, *Agilus horni* (known as the aspen root girdler), *Heterobasidion occidentale* (a fungal pathogen of conifers), and *Toumeyella parvicornis* (the pine tortoise scale), from the list of provisional Quarantine Pests to the list of Quarantine Pests ("QPs"). QPs are listed pests absent from GB (or under official control) which pose an unacceptable risk to GB, as they would cause economic/environmental damage if introduced. There are powers to apply specific import requirements to listed QPs to address the risk of introduction. As a result, specific import

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

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

requirements are being applied to *Toumeyella parvicornis*. These pests have been assessed as meeting the criteria to be QPs, as a result of a risk and horizon scanning process.

- b) Extend the existing import requirements for the QP *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (known as the pinewood nematode) to apply to the host wood exports from Armenia, following the identification of this pest in Armenia.
- c) Add the pest *Homona magnanima* (the oriental tea tortrix) to the provisional QP list, after it was assessed as meeting the criteria to be a QP, based on a preliminary assessment.
- d) Deregulate the pest *Helicoverpa armigera* (the cotton bollworm) after a recent policy review concluded that this pest no longer meets the criteria to be regulated as a QP.
- e) Deregulate the Pest Free Area Quarantine Pests, *Dendroctonus micans* (the great spruce bark beetle) and *Ips cembrae* (the large larch bark beetle). Recent evidence no longer supports the absence of these bark beetles in their respective Pest Free Areas in the west of Scotland. This only affects the timber industry in Scotland.

They also carry out technical amendments to the Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation:

- I. Firstly, to update the taxonomic name of a pest, *Ennomos subsignarius* (the elm spanworm moth), to ensure consistency with the internationally recognised name *Ennomos subsignaria*.
- II. Secondly, to correct an error involving a misplaced asterisk in the existing import requirements for the bacterial pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- III. Thirdly, to add the seed of *Solanum sisymbriifolium* to the list of goods which require a UK plant passport for their movement within Great Britain or introduction into GB from a Crown Dependency territory. This commodity was added to the legislation by the Phytosanitary Conditions (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/610) as a host of the regulated non-quarantine pest, potato spindle tuber viroid after it was found to harbour this pest. As a result of these amendments, the seed of *Solanum sisymbriifolium* must be free from the pest to be moved within, or introduced into, GB.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is the law relating to devolved matters should be made by the Welsh Ministers, on this occasion it is considered appropriate for the Regulations to be made by the Secretary of State. The Regulations relate to a devolved area, however, they impact on the biosecurity of GB which has traditionally been approached as a joint concern. GB is an island and plant pests and diseases have no respect for the borders between countries. Elements of the Regulations relate to the importation of plants and plant products. Most of these goods which enter Wales come through English ports.

Introducing separate regulations in Wales, England and Scotland would risk divergence on biosecurity matters where policy is aligned, may hamper enforcement by cross border bodies and place an additional burden on the Animal and Plant Health Agency (which enforces plant health across Wales and England) and businesses. Where policy is aligned, legislating on a GB-wide basis helps stakeholders comply with the requirements in the legislation to maintain our biosecurity.

There is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter and the Regulations amend legislation that was not made bilingually.

I have written similarly to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**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