

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 6 March 2019

Meeting time: 09.20

For further information contact:

Marc Wyn Jones

Committee Clerk

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Rethinking food in Wales: food branding and food processing: oral briefing (09.20 – 09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Rethinking food in Wales: food branding and food processing: evidence session with Gwyn Howells, Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 1 – 21)

Gwyn Howells, Chief Executive, Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Paper – Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales

3 Paper(s) to note

(10.30)

3.1 Correspondence from WWF Cymru to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs regarding environmental governance and principles

(Pages 22 – 23)



Attached Documents:

Correspondence from WWF Cymru – 11 February 2019

3.2 Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee to the Chair regarding petition P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales

(Pages 24 – 51)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee – 21 February 2019

3.3 Correspondence from the Chair to the First Minister of Wales regarding the scrutiny of Legislative Consent Memorandums

(Pages 52 – 54)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Chair – 28 February 2019

3.4 Further correspondence from the Chair to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs regarding environmental governance and principles

(Pages 55 – 58)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Chair – 28 February 2019

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from items 5, 6 and 8 of today's meeting

(10.30)

5 Consideration of draft letter to Natural Resources Wales following the annual scrutiny session on 13 February 2019

(10.30-10.40)

(Pages 59 – 63)

Attached Documents:

Draft letter

6 Consideration of the forward work programme

(10.40–11.00)

(Pages 64 – 68)

Attached Documents:

Forward work programme

Break (11.00 –11.30)

7 Rethinking food in Wales: food branding and food processing: evidence session with Andy Richardson, Food and Drink Wales Industry Board and Huw Thomas, Puffin Produce

(11.30–12.30)

(Pages 69 – 70)

Andy Richardson, Chair – Food and Drink Wales Industry Board

Huw Thomas, Managing Director – Puffin Produce

Attached Documents:

Paper – Puffin Produce

8 Rethinking food in Wales: food branding and food processing: consideration of oral evidence

(12.30–12.40)

Document is Restricted

Hybu Cig Cymru | Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC)

Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) is the statutory industry-led levy organisation responsible for the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh lamb, beef and pork. It undertakes promotional campaigns at home and abroad, is involved in research and development which benefits the efficiency and sustainability of the whole red meat supply chain, as well as collating and analysing market intelligence. HCC is also the guardian of the PGI Welsh Lamb and PGI Welsh Beef brands and administers the PGI verification scheme.

Food branding

1. **Welsh Government strategy:**

- **Activity to promote Welsh food products within the UK and internationally**
- **Activity to support Welsh food producers to develop their branding**

1.1. HCC is an organisation which, though independently-operated, is owned by Welsh Ministers. HCC helps to deliver aspects of Welsh Government food and agriculture policies. It would therefore not be appropriate for us to comment on Government strategy.

2. **UK Government activity to promote Welsh food products internationally**

2.1 The support that Welsh red meat has received from the UK Government in emerging overseas markets has included hosting a number of events.

2.2. Most governmental support is received from the Welsh Government, supporting attendance at trade fairs, on inward missions and at events worldwide. The Welsh Government is currently funding a 3-year £1.5 million Enhanced Export Development Programme, focused on retaining and growing European markets and growing new business outside the EU.

3. **The value of branding food as local, Welsh, British or otherwise**

3.1 In both UK markets and overseas, HCC sees great strategic value in using distinctive Welsh branding to promote red meat.

3.2 A key part of the export strategy for Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef in particular has been to aim at premium markets. In order to achieve premiumisation, the 'Welsh' brand has been used to differentiate the product from other offerings. This is unlikely to change in the future,

given the relatively high cost of production in Wales and the allied high standards of welfare and environmental management.

3.3. For lamb, beef and pork, the Welsh landscape and distinctively Welsh values and imagery have been used consistently over the past decades to convey a brand which is rooted in positive perceptions of Welsh agriculture as being low-intensity, high-welfare and in tune with the natural environment.

3.4 In terms of red meat exports, limited product is sold overseas as 'British', most being sold under specific product or retailer brands or as Protected Food Names (PFNs).

3.5 A recent report found that the UK food brand was negatively perceived in most key markets (Europe, North America and Japan).¹

3.6 There is also a particular negative perception in some overseas markets of the British brand as pertaining to red meat, due to historic poor publicity around BSE and other food health problems.

3.7 An independent report published by HCC, reviewing the success of the Welsh red meat brands between 2003 and 2013 found that premium and new market opportunities for the Welsh red meat supply chain grew by £115 million over the period, and identifies Welsh Lamb in particular as enjoying a significant price premium at retail as compared to other types of lamb.²

3.8 This research also indicated that in the domestic market, the brands achieved an increased British retail market share of £64 million over the 10 years, and an increased British retail premium of at least £1 million per year.

4. The value of Protected Food Names (Geographical Indicators), including the UK Government's proposals for a new post-Brexit UK scheme

4.1 PGI status provides a guarantee of provenance and a mark of quality; re-enforcing consumer confidence in the product and allowing it to be sold at a premium. Effective premiumisation maximises returns to the whole supply chain. Both domestic and global gains will rely on the effective premiumisation and the ability to differentiate and promote branded products.

4.2 According to published research, products carrying a Protected Food Name/ Geographical Indication designation were sold in the EU at a price 2.23 times higher than products not carrying such designations.³ While these designations are most widely recognised in Europe, they also carry considerable weight amongst food industry professionals in other parts of the world.

4.3 Brexit does however create an uncertainty to the long-term protection for products with PFN status, as unless the status, or a UK protected food name status which is recognised worldwide as being equivalent, can be maintained post Brexit, the ability to attract a premium for Welsh red meat could be limited. It is possible for produce originating outside the EU to

¹ **Source:** AHDB. Horizon: International Consumer Buying Behaviour: 2018

² **Source:** HCC. Flying the Flag: Decade of success for the Welsh red meat brands: Review 20032013

³ https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/external-studies/value-gi_en

have PGI status, Colombian Coffee being a notable example, but legislation giving mutual equivalent protection for European food names must be incorporated into the third country's law.

4.4. Immediate, seamless protection for the Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef brands post Brexit, as part of a scheme which is recognised as equivalent to PGI, is essential for the red meat industry.

4.5 HCC welcomes the proposed establishment of a UK GI scheme which mirrors as closely as possible the current European arrangement. However there remain details to be confirmed. It is important that any new scheme recognises the distinctive identity of such produce, rather than being subsumed into a UK brand.

4.6 HCC responded to the DEFRA consultation on establishing UK GI schemes after EU exit in October 2018, outlining its views on the scheme and logo design. It was conveyed that, given that recognition of the PFN scheme logos had grown in the UK, and 2014 data collected for HCC showing consumer awareness of the PGI logo in the UK to be at 19 percent,⁴ any drastic change in the PFN logos would have a negative effect, reducing the brand awareness back to zero and undermining all the work of Government and industry over the past 25 years. The response also encouraged UK Government to commit sufficient resources towards a scheme promotion and awareness campaign in the same way as the EU had over previous years.

5. The value of food branding in the tourism and hospitality sector

5.1 Agriculture has a key role in maintaining the landscape of Wales, which is a key component of the Visit Wales campaign and is largely responsible for attracting around a million overseas visitors and contributing £2.9 billion to the economy from tourism to Wales each year.⁵

6. Welsh Government strategy and support for food processors

6.1 HCC helps to deliver aspects of Welsh Government policy in this area. It would therefore not be appropriate for us to comment on Government strategy.

7. Trends in processing capacity in Wales and how Brexit might affect this

7.1 The Welsh red meat slaughtering industry has for many years faced a continuing underlying problem of fluctuating and at times low profitability. The sector as a whole suffers from underinvestment especially amongst small and medium enterprises and margins are coming under increasing pressure.

7.2 There are currently 18 operational red meat abattoirs in Wales, of which 16 slaughter cattle, 18 slaughter sheep and 11 slaughter pigs. Numbers are steadily declining. The cattle

⁴ **Source:** Beaufort Research for HCC. November 2014.

⁵ **Source:** Natural Resources Wales. A summary of the State of Natural Resources Report: An assessment of the sustainable management of natural resources. (September 2016).

and sheep slaughtering sectors are dominated by large abattoirs whilst the pig slaughtering sector is dominated by small and medium sized abattoirs.

7.3 In the last few years, whilst some extra red meat slaughtering capacity has come on stream through business expansion and through new businesses opening, there has at the same time been contraction amongst businesses and business closures/ suspension of operation, resulting in an overall decrease in throughput.

7.4 Achieving capacity (or extending it) is largely dependent on any investment and expansion by the larger companies. The smaller companies have limited effect on increases or decreases in capacity.

7.5 Many processors have concerns over the future availability of EU labour. Shortages may apply to semi-skilled labour in larger abattoirs, but also to qualified veterinarians who are essential to the whole processing sector.

7.6 The challenges the industry is currently facing will have a substantial impact on the future resilience, performance and profitability of the sector which raises concerns over the long-term viability of Welsh abattoirs without future investment in this sector.

Agenda Item 3.1



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Welsh Government
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11 February 2019

Dear Minister,

Environmental Governance & Principles Gap and No-deal Contingencies

In a matter of weeks, the UK is set to leave the European Union by automatic operation of law. As things stand, it will do so without a ratified withdrawal agreement, or a transition period. In that eventuality the environmental principle and governance structures afforded to us will effectively cease to exist.

As you will be aware, this is a matter of extreme concern to WWF Cymru due to the role these principles and governance structures play in guiding decision making; underpinning domestic legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations and Environment (Wales) Acts; and providing a proven mechanism to hold the Welsh and UK Governments to account.

In the wake of the 2016 referendum, we welcomed the Welsh Government's commitment to retaining these principles through legislation and ensuring there was no regression in environmental standards as a result of the UK's exit from the EU. Unfortunately, we are yet to see any material proposals from the Welsh Government to deliver upon this commitment – with the consultation intended for Summer/Autumn 2018 still to be undertaken. We also understand that even were that consultation to appear, it will not contain any proposals to close the gap Brexit creates.

Without these principles and governance structures in place, decisions will be significantly less robust and potentially indefensible; our Acts will lose part of their foundation, risking inoperability; and citizens will lose their right and mechanism to freely challenge government where they are failing to apply environmental laws and standards effectively. This situation is liable to last for several years.

In the meantime, the UK Government are developing legislation to serve England and reserved functions. We are engaging with our UK colleagues to make improvements to those proposals.

Mae WWF Cymru yn un o swyddfydd WWF-UK. Mae WWF-UK yn elusen gofrestrdedig yng Nghymru a Lloegr rhif 1081247 ac yn yr Alban rhif SC039593, ac yn gwmni cyfyngedig trwy warant cofrestrdedig yn Lloegr rhif 4016725. Rhif TAW 733 761821. Swyddfa cofrestrdedig: The Living Planet Centre, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL

Llywydd: Ei Uchelder Brenhinol, Tywysog Cymru KG, KT, GCB, OM
Prif Weithredwr: Tanya Steele

WWF Cymru is an office of WWF-UK. WWF-UK a charity registered in England and Wales number 1081247 and in Scotland number SC039593, a company limited by guarantee registered in England number 4016725. VAT number 733 761821. Registered office: The Living Planet Centre, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL

President: His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, OM
Chief Executive: Tanya Steele

We also believe they are developing contingencies should a deal and transition period not be agreed. Whilst we appreciate that your officials are in dialogue with UK Government to find solutions, we are very concerned that the Welsh Government do not appear to have contingency plans and do not have proposals to close the gap.

Given the risks of a No Deal Brexit, we are writing to you to urge that you come forward without further delay, with your proposals for closing the Governance and Principles gap in Wales and in collaboration with the UK Government, and your no-deal contingency plans.

As always, WWF remains ready to assist you in any way in developing solutions and lobbying at UK level where necessary. We have appreciated our current engagement yet feel we can work much more collaboratively going forward.

Regards,

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

Anne Meikle – WWF Cymru Director

Mike Hedges AM
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

21 February 2019

Dear Mike

Petition P-05-815 Control Rapidly Expanding Intensive Poultry Industry in Wales

As you will be aware, the Petitions Committee is currently considering the above petition. At our meeting on 29 January, Members agreed that I should write formally to you to share the details of the petition and the evidence received to date in light of your Committee's current inquiry into Biodiversity.

All information relating to the petition can be found at:

[http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=21792&O
pt=0.](http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=21792&Opt=0)

In particular, Members agreed to share with you:

- an analysis of recent planning applications related to the poultry industry in Powys provided by the petitioners; and
- views expressed by Natural Resources Wales in correspondence with the Petitions Committee.

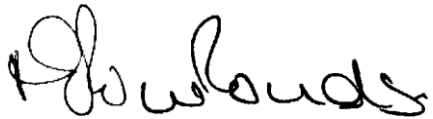
In addition to this, we also agreed to write back to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs to ask for:

- further details of the work being taken forward on the cumulative impact of new development on sensitive habitats during 2019;
- information over the stakeholders who will be engaged in this; and
- a response to the request that the petitioners are invited to participate as part of this work.



I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

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

David J Rowlands AM
Chair

Enc:

1. Correspondence and annexes from the petitioners dated 31 May 2018
2. Correspondence from Natural Resources Wales dated 17 August 2018.





David J Rowlands AM
Chair National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30th May 2018

Dear Mr. Rowlands

PETITION TO CONTROL RAPIDLY EXPANDING POULTRY INDUSTRY IN WALES

We were disappointed not to have had the opportunity to discuss the petition and our reasons for taking this action on 22nd May at the handover with any other members of the Petitions Committee and any of our local representatives. We therefore think it is reasonable to set out the evidence at greater length than we had anticipated would be necessary.

Background to Our Petition

BRB-CPRW has collected data on all IPU applications in Powys, including a regularly updated spreadsheet maintained since mid-2015. In response to our FOI in 2016, Powys CC was unable to produce any robust account of the number or distribution of intensive poultry units (IPUs) in Powys. We therefore created an interactive map of Powys IPU applications with planning approval which is publicly available on our website¹. There are over 300 IPU applications on approx. 190 farms representing approx. 7.5 million birds. Of these approx. 3 million are Free Range Egg (FRE) Layers, though occupying the majority of IPUs. Ceri Davies (NRW) has advised Kirsty Williams AM (Attachment 1) that no data are currently available for distribution of IPUs in parts of Wales other than Powys.

The State of Nature Wales 2016 report shows progressive degradation of our natural environment with intensive agriculture as the main factor. We believe there is now sufficient evidence from NRW and Environmental Organisations to show the Welsh Government that the rapidly expanding intensive poultry industry in Wales poses a significant threat to the Welsh environment and future well-being of Welsh people. Ceri Davies (Attachment 1) has advised Kirsty Williams AM that IPUs are posing potential risks to the environment. She writes that there has been an unprecedented expansion of IPUs in Wales, which is now the largest producer of free range eggs (FRE) in Europe.

David Powell (NRW: Head of Operations Mid Wales) has written to Russel George AM (Attachment 2) that, below the NRW permitting threshold of 40,000 birds, the sector is "largely unregulated for environmental issues". This includes the majority of FRE units. The only piece of Welsh research known to us: NRW Powys Poultry Pilot Study (PPPS) (available 2015, but officially published 2018) showed the ammonia emissions from the smaller unregulated units to pose a greater risk than those from the >40,000 bird units regulated by NRW permit.

In spite of the environmental risks, impacts on Powys communities and evidence from NRW's PPPS, only one out of 112 Powys IPU applications has been refused since mid-2015 (P/2016/0916: Upper Gwestydd). 84 have been approved (one withdrawn and approved on resubmission): the remainder await decision. Applications are still coming forward at a rate of roughly 1/week.

We have got nowhere in our efforts to discuss the environmental risks and inadequacies in the planning process with Powys CC. Powys CC has lacked a CEO until recently and the current Portfolio Holder for planning refuses any

¹ http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page_id=13

written communication with the public. In discussions with NRW, we have enthusiastically welcomed the strengthened approach to ammonia and nitrogen pollution NRW GN20 & OGN41, while regretting that this only changes the assessment of impacts on European and National designated sites which make up a small proportion of our natural heritage. We note that, one year after OGN41 was issued, NRW has not yet maintained objection to any individual development.

We assume that much of the above applies to other parts of Wales.

We welcome Minister Leslie Griffiths' comments on our petition but would draw the Petition Committee's attention to our wording: we request that the WG take action to ensure the poultry product industry is environmentally sustainable in keeping with Welsh legislation. Reducing the current large and growing impact is not a sufficient aspiration: the planning and regulatory framework described are not currently preventing ever increasing risks. Therefore the Minister's response does not allay our concerns, nor those of other informed environmental organisations including those taking part in the 2018 Water Wales Conference and Plantlife UK (publication on ammonia and nitrogen risks in Wales due in June 2018).

We question whether the WG has raw data and scientific evidence sufficient to assess the risks of the intensive poultry industry and take appropriate action consistent with its own legislation.

Who, in the Welsh Government, has an overview on impacts of IPU expansion on our environment and the impacts on rural residents?

We assume NRW will be consulted about our petition. We would be grateful if details of our petition and any ensuing debate and correspondence could also be made available for comment and provision of further evidence to: **Hannah Blythyn**: Minister for the Environment: responsible for NRW, biodiversity, wildlife protection and water policy²

Sophie Howe: Future Generations Commissioner for Wales: responsible for making changes needed to meet the WBFGA goals.

Also to:

Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee chaired by Professor Julian Sampson

Professor Peter Halligan: Chief Scientific Advisor for Wales

Dr Rob Orford: Chief Scientific Advisor for Wales (Health): responsible for emerging risks.

We would welcome any opportunity for discussion with these people and all other parties concerned.

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Our following response is structured to follow the ministerial letter (9 paragraphs numbered). We have not commented on Para 8 because animal welfare was only mentioned in relation to disease risk which is addressed in Para 7.

LG Para 2: A Prosperous, Resilient future Poultry industry? WG Policy: Wales Future Well-Being and Resilient Ecosystems

Sustainability must be an integrated goal which should include the maintenance of ecosystems, the natural resources (soil and water quality) upon which other agriculture sectors depend, the well-being of Welsh residents and employees and protecting a sustainable tourist industry, so important to Welsh GDP.

Reducing impacts on the environment is imperative. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 goes further in seeking to '*maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide*'. The 2016 State of Nature Report³ paints a bleak picture of dramatic declines in biodiversity and in its analysis of the causes cites the intensification of agriculture as having had the greatest negative impacts: "*The intensification of agriculture* [over the last 40 years]

² <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/ministers/hannah-blythyn?lang=en>

³ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/projects/state-of-nature-reporting>

has had the biggest impact on wildlife, and this has been overwhelmingly negative.” (See also diagram SoNaRR pp12-13.) The Welsh Government’s ambitions for resilient ecosystems cannot be achieved without addressing the impacts of intensive agriculture.

Minimising Antibiotic Use⁴

The poultry industry has showcased the very welcome 71% reduction in antibiotic use between 2012 and 2016 under the BPC antibiotic stewardship scheme. However this came after a previous period of steeply increasing use. The identity of particular antibiotics and the impact of their ongoing use in the poultry industry on resistance to organisms involved in human disease is critical. It appears that Fluoroquinolones used in human medicine, and banned for poultry in the US, are still used in poultry drinking water when only a proportion of birds are affected with bacteria (which may be transmitted to consumers and require human AB treatment). We trust Welsh policy is founded on evidence about impacts on soil from manure/fresh droppings from birds treated with ABs and impacts on humans from ingestion of poultry products.

Economic Sustainability of Poultry Industry⁵

Farmers Weekly 23/5/18 warns that the FRE sector is at risk of “unsustainable growth” with supply outstripping demand. If the availability of Farm Business Grants has played a role in the current surge of applications for Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs), we trust that the potential for market distortion is under review.

Economic Sustainability of other Farming Sectors

Excessive manure-spreading on soils, contamination of water systems from manure-spreading and run-off from crowded ranges (up to 2,500 birds/Ha) and water extraction from depleted natural sources have an impact on other agricultural sectors. Over dependence on IPUs risks neglect of proper environmental management of other agricultural sectors.

LG Para 3: Poultry farms are regulated. Petition asks for NRW to provide resources for NRW to do research, regulate and monitor poultry industry and give better planning help to LPAs. The NRW budget.

Threshold for NRW Environmental Permitting: 40,000 birds

Proportion of sheds in Powys requiring environmental permit and regulation is under 20%: Environmental permits are only required for IPUs of over 40,000 birds. From CPRW B&R branch data on IPUs in Powys we can see that this means that ***over 80% of IPUs in Powys fall outside the NRW permitting regime*** and are therefore not subject to environmental regulation. Many Powys IPUs fall just below the permitting threshold, and one application has been made for 39,999 birds (P/2017/0810).

Smaller unregulated IPUs likely to be greater polluters: In 2015 NRW published the Powys Pilot Poultry Study⁶, examining ammonia impacts of poultry units. This pilot research demonstrates that smaller IPUs not subject to NRW environmental regulation are greater emitters of airborne pollution than larger regulated IPUs. Environmental impacts of smaller IPUs, including potential for water pollution, are also likely to be less rigorously assessed at determination stage.

Regulation and monitoring See section on water quality below.

Research and the NRW Budget

⁴ <https://www.ruma.org.uk/european-antibiotic-report-links-antibiotic-use-resistance/>
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/poultry-farmers-using-more-antibiotics-linked-to-resistant-food-poisoning-bugs-a6859436.html>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405654517302512>

⁵ <http://www.fwi.co.uk/business/free-range-egg-sector-risk-unsustainable-growth.htm>

⁶ <https://cyfoethnaturiolcymru.sharepoint.com/teams/advice/airq/ layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=ADVI-1501371034-6>

Reduction in Welsh Government grants to NRW since 2013/4: The Minister states that NRW is the ‘largest Welsh Government Sponsored Body’ i.e. the largest non-departmental public body directly funded by WG. As the amalgam of three substantial legacy bodies, this isn’t a surprise. An uplift in the NRW budget to £180m in the current year is welcome. However, NRW’s budget is made up of Welsh Government grant and NRW’s other income - between £60 and £70 million over the last 4 years. It seems likely that the uplift mentioned has done little to reverse the pattern of steady reduction of total Government grant, which fell from £139 to £111 million between 2013/4 and 2016/7. We hope we are wrong.

Likely consequences of budget cuts: In December 2017 Diane McCrea warned Government that NRW would be unable to fulfil the ambitions of recent legislation on existing funds⁷. Concerned environmental NGOs and NRW staff have echoed these warnings and highlighted problems arising from lack of funding⁸. NRW’s remit as statutory consultee has shrunk year on year, leaving more and more of the environmental scrutiny of planning applications to cash-strapped LPAs with inadequate in-house expertise.

Should a regulatory body be self-funding through commercial activities? The Government response to NRW’s plea for funds that NRW must look to raising more money itself is problematic. For a body which is the national regulator and environmental watchdog to depend for its bread and butter on commercial activities poses very serious conflicts of interest.

NRW Responsibilities: The NRW budget has to fund multiple responsibilities. NRW has not only undergone profound organisational change, and the loss of much scientific expertise, but has done so at a time of rapidly changing legislative framework which imposes substantial extra work on NRW. At the same time it must fulfil the role of the following English agencies:

- Environment Agency e.g. re flood risk management
- Natural England – equivalent role in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- DEFRA – equivalent role in regulating agriculture
- Forestry – coping with tree diseases and Welsh woodland policy

All of this is essential work for a healthy environment and achievement of the ambitions of flagship new Welsh legislation.

NRW has no Scientific Advisory Panel: NRW Board Meeting 4/9/2013 resolved ‘*To put in place appropriate arrangements to provide independent scientific advice to help ensure the quality of our evidence.*’ This has not happened and we are awaiting a response from the Executive Board about how the research strategy to provide evidence for proactive measures to reverse the decline in biodiversity is planned and authorised. However, the verbal response did not quote any research other than the 2015 Powys Poultry Pilot Study (see above).

What research might lead to a more sustainable poultry industry?: Clear examples of research required to inform a more sustainable future poultry industry are the ‘Next Steps’ set out in the Powys Pilot Poultry Study, including a study of cumulative and in combination impacts of ammonia emissions, which we do not believe has ever been carried out. Of equal importance and urgency is production of scientifically founded advice to LPAs on impacts of IPU on human health, together with appropriate guidance. Environmental NGOs feel it is essential that a ‘before and after’ study of impacts on a sensitive site be undertaken.

LG Paras 4 & 5: Petition asks WG to issue Planning Policy and guidance to LPAs, ensure cumulative impacts are considered, monitor and enforce planning conditions

LPA misunderstanding of their responsibilities

NRW remit in statutory responses is limited: NRW’s remit in responding to Planning Applications is limited to matters described in their remit document⁹ and does not include the potential effects on environmental interests of local importance including local nature reserves, priority habitats etc. NRW may comment on local Ancient

⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-42340157>

⁸ For example <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-39732164>

⁹ 150302-natural-resources-wales-and-planning-consultations-final-eng

Woodland for an EIA development but often it does not. Impacts of IPU's not considered by NRW must be considered by the LPA however, PCC regularly cites NRW's failure to object as blanket evidence of no adverse impact on natural resources.

Also, under the new NRW regulations (GN20 & OGN41), where thresholds for the process contributions of ammonia emissions or nitrogen deposition on designated sites are exceeded, the LPA will have to make an in-combination/cumulative assessment of livestock unit impacts as detailed in Powys application P/2018/0474 (Muslop Farm) website ref. 466651 NRW.

Powys County Council was unable to supply a suitable map of intensive poultry units in response to an FOI request in 2016 and we do not believe that Welsh LPAs will have the basic data or skills to perform these independent in-combination assessments. They are used to relying entirely on applicants' assessments as a basis for their own.

CADW does not address Landmap categories: The fact that CADW did not object to P/2015/0131 (Penarth), was cited by the Case Officer as evidence that the impact of this development in a Landmap outstanding historic landscape layer is acceptable.

LPA misunderstanding of Environmental Impact Regulations

PCC has failed to adhere to EIR regulations: Schedule 1 developments 17. (85,000 places for broilers or 60,000 places for hens) publishing no EIA screening for P/2018/0474 (Muslop Farm 64,000 hens), a negative EIA screening for P/2017/1047 (Gorn 64,000 hens), a positive EIA screening but no Environmental Statement required and a delegated decision made on P/2017/1047 (Ddole Farm 160,000 broilers) in spite of PCC Constitution 19.91 rule that EIA development goes to planning committee.

LPA misunderstanding of Environment Wales Act 6. "To seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity"

P/2017/0325 (Cwmroches) was approved within 70m of a Radnorshire Wildlife Trust ancient woodland reserve, noted for its rare lichens in spite of objection from the Trust Director and other stakeholders. LG says that Authorities **must** take views of WLTs into account but they do not. The expert advice of bodies such as the Woodland Trust, Wye and Usk Foundation (WUF), National Trust and individual environmental experts is ignored and may not even be referred to in the Officer's Report.

Almost two years on, the Environment Wales Act S6 responsibilities appear to have had no impact on the operation of the planning function.

Well Being of Future Generations Act

This legislation is rarely, if ever, cited in IPU decision procedures and the well-being of rural residents has **never** been a reason for refusal of a Powys IPU application, not even in the case of P/2015/0131 (Penarth), where there is an independent property just 65m from a 70m shed and also surrounded by manure-spreading and a chicken range. The property is within the maximum ammonia concentration area (website ref.180200). TAN 6 Para.6.6.3 says authorities should exercise particular care if planning residential housing within 400m of intensive livestock units but livestock units are regularly approved within 400m of existing housing, including when residents operate a tourist business which Powys is "committed to protecting" (LDP 4.2.75) (P/2017/1437: Dol y Garreg)

There is no statutory guidance for set-back from residents and many tranquil country areas have rendered unpleasant and/or unhealthy to be in by smell, dust, traffic, noise from fans etc. Applicants' reports are produced by a very small number of consultants who usually work exclusively for the industry and any expert advice commissioned by residents is given no balancing status. Public Health Wales have not formulated advice on IPU's and public health risks and are not consulted.

PPW10 consultation

Our reply to this consultation should be available to the Petitions Committee. We fear that the proposed structure of PPW10 will prevent both Planning Officers and the public from finding clear policy guidance about how to balance the goals of the WBFGA and halt the decline in biodiversity

The Public Role

All except one of Powys IPU applications since mid-2015 have been approved in spite of many well-reasoned arguments from members of the public and environmental stakeholders. Given the known environmental effects of intensive livestock farming, this strongly suggests that the planning process is heavily biased in favour of approval and that NRW has so far failed to object to the most damaging projects. Sometimes NRW have only become aware of problems via public alerts, for example an inadequate range area of half the required size and protected crayfish in P/2015/0131 (Penarth). There is no prospect of Powys Council being able to make better decisions while their funding situation precludes the employment of a planning ecologist of suitable experience and calibre, or a landscape officer, or the regular commissioning of outside expert advice.

We have explored all avenues for change and, apart from this petition, the only recourse for the public is Judicial Review of a decision which is prohibitively expensive and time-consuming.

LG Para 6. Petition asks WG to make industry contribute to costs of regulation, hold it to account for breach of environmental responsibility and WG to publish transparent reports on progress.

Industry contribution to costs of regulation and 'polluter pays' principle

Who pays for water pollution? The minister has not addressed the point on industry contribution to costs. To give an example, at present approximately 80% of Water Framework Directive compliance costs, e.g. water treatment, are borne by the water industry and so, ultimately, by the consumer; the farming sector, a major contributor to water pollution, contributes 1%¹⁰.

Is the poultry industry minimising environmental pollution? Similarly, while there are measures which can be taken to substantially reduce ammonia emissions from IPUs, at present this is not common practice in Wales. Even simple, low cost measures, such as sealed manure stores, are not usually required. The unquantified cost of the resulting environmental degradation is borne entirely by the public.

Polluter pays: The 'polluter pays' principle is important in that it incentivises action to reduce environmental pollution. If additional costs to reduce harmful pollution challenge the financial viability of smaller IPUs, their true 'sustainability' is surely called into question.

Transparent reporting on progress

There is no reporting on the environmental impacts of IPUs in Wales beyond the Powys Pilot Poultry Study referenced above, which has only recently been published on the NRW website.

No Welsh data is published on any environmental impacts of this rapidly growing and potentially highly polluting industry; the public cannot track progress to address these impacts. For example, the public has no access to information such as regular water sampling data (published by the EA in England), which would demonstrate progress or lack of it in tackling water pollution and achieving Water Framework Directive objectives for water quality.

¹⁰ Dr Nathan Richardson, RSPB, Welsh WWT Water Conference 17/5/2018

New NRW Guidance: Guidance Note 020, Quick Guide 9 & Operational Guidance Note 41

As the Minister says, NRW has produced new guidance GN020, which is aimed primarily at NRW staff. NRW has also published QG9¹¹ which is welcome but – in the absence of mandatory training - has made no discernible difference to the operation of the Powys planning function. NRW has also acted, by publication of OGN41¹² to reduce ammonia thresholds for deposition onto sites with a National or European designation. It is not clear, over a year later, at what point these new thresholds will be adopted by LPAs. P/2017/0325 (Cwmroches) was approved late 2017, despite being located adjacent to a wildlife trust ancient woodland site hosting rare lichens, and despite NRW's statement that under new thresholds the IPU would be refused planning permission¹³.

New guidance OGN41: Ammonia depositions on sites other than national/international designated sites: Local wildlife sites, ancient woodlands and the countryside at large do not benefit from reduced ammonia deposition thresholds.

New guidance OGN41: Ammonia and irreplaceable ancient woodland: Ancient woodland can be among most biodiverse habitats, hosting rare lichens and mosses, which are particularly vulnerable to damage by ammonia deposition. *Each new IPU can deposit on any ancient woodland 100% of the critical ammonia load which the woodland can (theoretically) bear without damage, even if there are other IPUs in proximity to that same wood contributing further emissions, and even if background nutrient levels at that site already exceed the critical load.*

New guidance OGN41: In combination ammonia impacts: There is no requirement to consider in combination impacts with other IPUs at application stage unless an IPU exceeds significance thresholds for depositions. The LPA is expected to undertake this assessment; if Powys is typical, LPAs will not have the data on locations of IPUs to be able to do this work.

Publication of applications for environmental permits

Permitting information *is* published, but ***no permits are required for over 80% of IPU applications in Powys***. Most free range egg units, carrying a higher pollution risk because of the outdoor ranges and potential for run off, do not require an environmental permit.

LG Para 7 Animal and human health issues are controlled.

The approval of too many units, too close together and the locating of parent stock units producing hatching eggs within short distances of other IPUs is an increasing biosecurity hazard. The AHAAH says they know of no biosecurity zones to regulate separation of units.

As the density of IPUs increases, fertile egg units are closer and closer to large broiler units and, yet more risky, to FRE units. FRE-IPU hens have access to ranges where wild birds can join them so that these sites become vulnerable to zoonotic infections like avian flu and psittacosis. Since many viral infections are airborne, they may easily spread between nearby units.

Risk of the H5N6 HPA1 has precipitated restrictions on outdoor poultry, only lifted this week (25/1/18 to 25/5/15). In January 2017, Pontyberem, Carms was declared a "protection zone" due to risk of highly pathogenic H5N8 HPA1 and restrictions on outdoor poultry due to risk of the H5N6 HPA1 were only lifted this week (25/1/18 to 25/5/15).

¹¹ Quick Guide 9: Poultry Units: planning permission and environmental assessment Guidance for applicants, local planning authorities and NRW staff

¹² Operational Guidance Note OGN 41 Assessment of ammonia and nitrogen impacts from livestock units when applying for an Environmental Permit or Planning Permission.

¹³ See website doc 4392145 NRW consultee response

A virulent avian influenza could cause massive poultry mortality rendering the industry unsustainable. It could also decimate wild-bird populations. It could also possibly transfer to humans, in whom treatment options for viral disease are very limited.

LG Para 9. Water Strategy for Wales

Environmental Impacts of IPU: impacts go beyond the potential for water pollution

We address only several of the key environmental impacts of IPU developments, which include:

- Contamination of soil, ground and surface waters from run-off which may include nutrient dense faeces/manure, residues of veterinary medicines, disinfectants and biologically active materials from ranges, verandahs, tracks and roads;
- Soil and water contamination from waste management i.e. storage and spreading of manure;;
- Impacts on water quantity;
- Air quality impacts: ammonia emissions, emissions of toxic poultry dust¹⁴, odour and noise – all of which have implications for human health – this is currently receiving no attention;
- Impacts on landscape;
- Impacts arising from the introduction of heavy traffic onto minor lanes

This has clear implications for the health and well-being of rural communities and the ability of rurally located businesses, particularly tourism enterprises, to flourish.

Water quality and quantity

Water Strategy for Wales – where are we now? The Water Strategy for Wales was published in 2015. Its objectives have not been achieved. Water quality in some catchments has deteriorated since 2015 and pollution issues have reached crisis point.

EU complaint about Welsh Government failures: On 12/3/2018 Afonydd Cymru formally complained to the EU about the Government's failures against the Water Framework Directive (WFD) to address agricultural pollution¹⁵, having previously made an urgent appeal¹⁶ in conjunction with other environmental NGOs, to Government to act to tackle to agricultural pollution. We are grateful that the Minister has acknowledged the need to address agricultural pollution¹⁷.

Is Wales managing water sustainably? WWT Welsh Water Conference 17/5/2018: In his opening address Prof. Steve Ormerod, Cardiff University, stated: '*freshwater ecosystems are degrading faster than any other ecosystems*'. Nathalie Hall, NRW, confirmed that *Wales is still not managing water resources sustainably*. , 2016 State of Natural Resources Report confirms this with specific mentions of *increases* in diffuse nutrient pollution from agriculture.

Agricultural pollution and deterioration in water quality: At the same conference, Nathan Richardson (RSPB) evidenced the poor state of Welsh waters. Presentation¹⁸ Slide 3 maps Welsh catchments which have deteriorated in quality between 2015 and 2017 despite the WFD '**no deterioration**' clause. Slide 6 shows that agriculture is the dominant source of nutrient and sediment pollution in Wales. Slide 7 – soil degradation costs £1.2bn p.a. and ammonia emissions £456m p.a. (England and Wales).

Self-regulation by the farming industry has not addressed the problem of diffuse agricultural pollution.

¹⁴ A substance hazardous to human health according to the Health and Safety Executive <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web40.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://afonyddcymru.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Director-General-Env-March-2018.pdf>

¹⁶ <http://afonyddcymru.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Letter-to-Cab-Sec-Lesley-Griffiths-Agricultural-Pollution-March-9th.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://afonyddcymru.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Letter-from-Lesley-GriffithsMar-18.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://event.wwtonline.co.uk/wales/speaker-presentations/>

WUF Position Statement on Free Range Poultry 2016: NGOs have been highlighting water quality issues for years. In 2016, the WUF published the Position Statement on Free Range Poultry 2016¹⁹, setting out impacts of pollution on development in Herefordshire and some recommendations for planners and regulators to minimise water pollution risks. These recommendations have not been taken up by NRW, or local or central government. Also included is the EU Advocate General's advice of 2014 that member states are required to refuse to authorize a project if it could cause a deterioration in status of a waterbody²⁰.

Progress? WUF critique June 2017 of Welsh Government 'light touch regulation': WUF reported in June 2017²¹ that algal blooms had been observed in the upper reaches of the Wye and:

"However, a combination of light touch regulation of poor farming practices by Welsh Government and its agencies along with an 'explosion' in the number of poultry units in Powys has meant an increase in P levels in the upper Wye catchment.

Each poultry unit has been contested by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, whose chief executive, Julian Jones has been extremely active. WUF has also been active in promoting best practice and investigation has revealed that although there are controls on units over a certain size, many, if not most, are built just below that size. Worse still, there seems to be little done to ensure that planning conditions are adhered to or they are operated correctly. A recent FOI request reveals that Powys Council has taken no consideration of the cumulative effects of the many units in the planning process, which is somewhat contradictory to the requirements of the Directives."

Downstream pollution issues – Herefordshire County Council and CPRE: Downstream authorities are also concerned about Welsh failures to reduce pollution - see Herefordshire Council's Audit and Governance Committee minutes of 26/1/2016²²: *"The point was made that although Herefordshire was taking this matter seriously and were working on a nutrient management plan, the plan's benefit was reduced if the Welsh authorities upstream are not addressing the issue"*. Herefordshire CPRE²³ have commissioned their own analysis of data on phosphate levels in the Upper Wye and Lugg catchment and confirm that in autumn 2017 only 5 out of 49 water sampling points were within maximum thresholds, as compared to 11 in 2015.

Bacterial problems in drinking water in Brecon Beacons mega catchment (Cardiff supply): Welsh Water report that bacterial issues associated with excess soil nutrients have affected groundwater quality even within the Brecon Beacons National Park (which supplies most of Cardiff's water requirements). There is clearly potential for impacts from intensive agriculture on soils and drinking water, and on private water supplies at properties close to IPU's.

NRW Funding, need for water quality compliance regulation and monitoring: Again at the WWT conference, Jerry Langford (Woodland Trust) emphasised the *need, if good water quality is to be achieved, for NRW to be resourced and enabled to provide catchment level governance, regulation, advice and independent audit*²⁴. It was pointed out that while Scotland operates 'General Binding Rules', effective in controlling diffuse agricultural pollution, and England has new rules for water management, Wales has no compliance requirements, despite deteriorating water quality and the ongoing expansion of intensive agriculture across Wales.

Abstraction and sustainability: In rural areas many households are dependent on adequate quality and quantity of off mains water supplies. A 16,000 layer shed will use 1.168 – 1.92 million litres in a year, excluding shed cleaning²⁵. Roughly calculated – IPU's applied for to date may require up to 600 million litres of water a year. This is a real and growing stress on mains and off mains supplies, at a time when the Climate Change Committee's projections²⁶

¹⁹ http://pstatic.powys.gov.uk/fileadmin/TranslatedDocs/Planning/ldp/LDP_Examination/Exan_Docs/ED032.11-6235_2.6_WUF_Position_Statement_on_Free_Range_Poultry_2016.pdf

²⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62013CC0461>

²¹ <http://mailer.wyeuskfoundation.org/display?e=f2293965da1a6bc6540bb7389b56e9f0>

²² <http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/g5517/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2026-Jan-2016%2010.00%20Audit%20and%20governance%20committee.pdf?T=1>

²³ <https://www.cpreherefordshire.org.uk/assets/Documents/newsletter/45683cd566/HCPRE-Herefordshire-Highlights-April-2018.pdf>

²⁴ See also similar advice from Wales Environment Link April 2018 http://www.waleslink.org/sites/default/files/restoring_our_freshwaters_-_pollution_final_30_april.pdf

²⁵ From EC 'Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference Document for the Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs' (http://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/BREF/IRPP_Final_Draft_082015_bw.pdf)

²⁶ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UK-CCRA-2017-Wales-National-Summary.pdf>

advises ‘More action needed to reduce pollution and over-abstraction and improve the ecological condition of water bodies. Ensure decisions on use of water allow for necessary environmental flows and take account of climate change.’

Welsh Water 2050²⁷ anticipates drier summers, more extreme weather events, and a greater demand from England to make up shortages across the border is also anticipated. The sustainability of unchecked expansion of a water-hungry industry is very questionable.

Air quality: ammonia emissions, particulates and poultry dust

2016 Air quality consultation: Welsh Government’s 2016 consultation ‘Local air quality and noise management in Wales’ failed to recognise rural air quality issues, as does the Welsh Government’s Air Quality Fund²⁸. By contrast, the UK Government²⁹ has recognised the need for curbs on agricultural emissions of ammonia. It is not news that livestock are emitters of ammonia and particulates - see the APIS website³⁰. There are implications for both environmental and human health.

Wales – nutrient impacts on sensitive sites: JNCC data³¹ on the acidification and eutrophication of sensitive sites (January 2016) indicates that ***in 2012 74.4% of sensitive sites in Wales exceeded critical loads for acidification, while 90.3 exceeded critical loads for eutrophication.*** Emissions from intensive farming are impacting on sensitive sites where biodiversity is already compromised by excess nutrients.

Rural air pollution – need for more action: There’s a clear, urgent need to address rural air pollution. NRW scientists have introduced revised ammonia thresholds for designated sites. We would like to see these achievements consolidated by training for planners, who are not consistently operating new thresholds, extended to protect non-designated sites, and ensure real protection of biodiversity across rural Wales.

Impacts of ammonia deposition: Plantlife’s report³² ‘We need to talk about nitrogen’ states ‘*atmospheric nitrogen deposition fails to gain either the political attention or the practical action that is urgently required to protect and restore the UK’s most sensitive wildlife habitats*’ and simple steps which might reduce environmental damage, e.g. tree belts, are not employed. Impacts include loss of species richness, habitat degradation and changes in soil chemistry.

NRW’s State of Natural Resources Report 2016: Ch. 6 SoNaRR:

“Diversification of agriculture, such as increased production of both poultry meat and eggs, is resulting in atmospheric pollution impacts which include emissions from manure through spreading and storage practices. Dense clusters of poultry developments in East Wales and Anglesey are leading to local air quality problems. Individually, many of these developments fall below the size threshold for limits on emissions, but when clustered in geographic areas their combined effects have a potential impact on resilience, particularly of sensitive ecosystems, and contribute to the amount of particulate matter that could affect well-being.”

Impacts on soil and the requirements for adequate size and suitable location of outdoor ranges

Requirement to consider outdoor range as part of IPU: Powys planners do not consider outdoor ranges, despite clear advice contained in response to P/2014/0877 by Neil Hemming, Chief Planner, Planning Directorate, Ministry for Natural Resources that livestock units should be considered to include both indoor and outdoor areas dedicated to the livestock.

²⁷ <https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/Company-Information/Business-Planning/Welsh-Water-2050.aspx>

²⁸ <https://gov.wales/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2018/180424-20m-air-quality-fund-among-new-measures-to-improve-air-quality-in-wales/?lang=en>

²⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/air-quality-explaining-air-pollution/air-quality-explaining-air-pollution-at-a-glance>

³⁰ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/starters-guide-air-pollution-and-pollution-sources>

³¹ http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/AirPollutionBulletin_No8_2017.pdf

³²

http://www.plantlife.org.uk/application/files/4214/9086/6241/Workshop_Report_We_need_to_talk_about_Nitrogen_Plantlife_BES_January_2017_FINAL.pdf

Why is this important? Regulations require a minimum size of outdoor range for free range birds, now 2500 per Ha, formerly 1000. Unless the regulation size range is provided, suitably maintained, and rotated the land on which birds forage is liable to become '*poultry sick*' i.e. contaminated by a build-up of parasites and disease carrying organisms³³. The long term impacts for soil health are unknown, but in the short term there are clear risks to poultry health.

WUF run off risks advice disregarded: WUF advice regarding use of Scimap technology (showing water flows across terrain) to inform planners regarding drainage issues and the suitability of proposed range sites has necessarily been disregarded, since in the majority of cases ranges receive minimal or no attention during determination, and range maps, if provided at all rarely indicate contours.

Number of birds on range - topography and other considerations: The same document '*Laying hens - code of recommendations for the welfare of livestock*'²² also requires that range density be determined after consideration of soil type, drainage and the availability of rotation. This is not happening; by contrast we see no attention paid to ranges and application *P/2017/0640 was approved under delegated powers in full knowledge that the applicant had insufficient landholding to provide a range of adequate size for the number of birds.*

Role of the Animal and Plant Health Agency: The Animal and Plant Health Agency have confirmed that they can play no role in determination of applications and their remit does not extend to commenting on environmental suitability of ranges.

Our evidence suggests that parts of Wales are "saturated" with IPU development. The legislation and guidance in place has not been effective in preventing approval for new units which are too close to each other, to sites valuable for biodiversity, to water resources and to residents. Regulation is patchy and does not cover the range of risks. We have no evidence of a research program to assess long term environmental impacts of IPUs or of an integrated approach to the long-term risks. There is a poor understanding of division of responsibilities between organisations and many issues fall into the gaps. We are asking for the WG to support an Industry which is genuinely sustainable and to ensure better regulation and location of IPUs. This will require a change in attitude of LPAs in line with their legal duties. Where a high standard of environmental protection and preservation of residential amenity cannot be achieved IPUs should be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Colchester
Chair, Brecon & Radnor Branch,
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales Registered charity number 239899

Attachments:

Attachment 1 NRW 2018 03 02 NRW response to Kirsty Williams AM

Attachment 2 NRW 2018 05 16 response to R George AM

Attachment 3 CPRW Brecon& Radnor List of IPU applications in Powys since 2015

³³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69367/pb7274-laying-hens-020717.pdf p19

From: Preece, Richard **On Behalf Of** Davies, Ceri

Sent: 02 March 2018 15:51

To: Williams, Kirsty (Aelod Cynulliad | Assembly Member) [REDACTED]

Cc: Government Business; Ingram, Kevin; Davies, Ceri

Subject: RE: Our Ref:140903 - Response from NRW

Dear Ms Williams,

Thank you for your email to Kevin Ingram on the 22nd February, he has asked me to respond on his behalf.

NRW has a dual role as regulator as well as statutory advisor in relation to poultry unit developments. As you have indicated in your question, in recent years, there has been a massive increase in poultry unit numbers across Wales with bird numbers tripling since 2006. Wales is now the largest producer of free range eggs in Europe. This unprecedented expansion of poultry units poses potential risks to the environment many of which can be minimised by appropriate siting, design and management.

The largest of the units tend to involve the production of birds for meat (broilers). NRW regulates poultry units greater than 40,000 in number and can tightly control emissions via an environmental permit.

However, most new poultry developments fall outside NRW's permitting system (being below the 40,000 threshold) and are dealt with by the Local Planning Authorities. NRW is a statutory consultee within the planning process and we have recently published a guidance note to aid applicants, Local Authorities and NRW staff in the process of submitting, assessing, advising on and determining planning applications for poultry units. The aim of the guidance is to ensure that all environmental constraints have been appropriately considered when an application is submitted. We have also included Local Authority representatives within NRW training workshops to ensure a common understanding of the new thresholds.

Many individuals and local opposition groups have approached NRW about their concerns with the rapid expansion of the industry in Wales. As a result, NRW has investigated the interaction of regulated and unregulated development. In a study area in Powys we have demonstrated that the ammonia emission "footprint" from the smaller units (covered under planning) is much greater than for the larger NRW regulated units. Powys Poultry Pilot Study: https://cyfoethnaturiolcymru.sharepoint.com/teams/advice/airq/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=ADVI-1501371034-6

The poultry units are often clustered together and can be close to vulnerable wildlife sites where bird numbers can exceed 15,000 per square kilometre. Our study only looked at a limited area of Powys and we are aware that similar developments are taking place in many other parts of Wales for which no data is currently available.

Two recent pieces of legislation in Wales are helping us develop a more inclusive and integrated approach to reducing the impacts of new livestock developments. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a new duty on NRW to ensure we seek to “maintain and enhance biodiversity”. The same biodiversity duty is also a legal requirement for Local Authorities. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a requirement on all public bodies to work together to identify and deliver “shared outcomes”. We are engaging with Local Authorities in developing a shared outcome that links addressing emissions under both the permitting and planning regimes in a joined-up approach.

In 2017 NRW adopted new air quality thresholds to minimise nitrogen (ammonia) emissions. The new screening thresholds were developed by a UK wide working group based on a strong evidence base in relation to the impact of ammonia emissions from Intensive Farms on sensitive species in particular lichen. We have implemented the new screening thresholds ahead of other UK regulators as in Wales we are fortunate to still have internationally important lichen communities and we need to act now to prevent detriment to these ecologically important communities.

We are aware that the tighter standards are not universally popular with the farming community or the farming unions and we continue to work with relevant organisations (including NFU Cymru) to enhance their understanding of the need for the new screening thresholds and to ensure that there is a sustainable approach to the expansion of the poultry industry in Wales.

As well as the threat posed by the livestock unit itself there is growing concern about the lack of a regulatory framework that can be utilised by NRW or Local Authorities to control the land spreading of the poultry manure which can lead to nutrification of our water courses. We advocated the development of basic measures in the SMNR consultation which if accepted could give us the tools to minimise the environmental impact of land spreading.

Although we can recover costs for our permitting and regulatory work on Intensive Farming units via our Fees and Charges, other aspects of our management of these facilities have been a significant challenge on the resource front. The work has been prioritised, and we have

increased awareness of the issues, ensured guidance is in place and collaborated with interested parties.

We are satisfied that by working collaboratively with the Welsh planning authorities (both individually and through the Planning Officers Society Wales), farmers, the farming unions and Welsh Government and by continuing to identify and influence closing the gaps in legislation that we will be able to support the sustainable development of the poultry industry in Wales whilst continuing to maintain and enhance the environment.

I hope the above information is useful to you, but please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards

Ceri

Ceri Davies

Executive Director for Evidence, Policy and Permitting

Cyfarwyddiaeth Tystiolaeth, Polisi a Thrwyddedu /Evidence, Policy and Permitting Directorate

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

To: Russell George AM / AC

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref: email 11 May 2018

Sent via email

Dyddiad/Date: 16 May 2018

Dear Russell

THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS OF INTENSIVE POULTRY UNITS

Thank you for the emails from your constituent Mr Wynn-Jones who has expressed concerns over the environmental effects of intensive poultry units.

As Mr Wynn-Jones writes, poultry units can affect the environment by the production of ammonia, dust, odour and noise. We regulate poultry units with more than 40,000 places under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) which implement the relevant European Directive for this sector. Below 40,000 places the sector is subject to planning requirements but is otherwise largely unregulated for environmental issues.

The Environmental Permitting Regulations aims to minimise the impact by implementing standards detailed in European Best Available Technique Reference documents (BREF) we are currently reviewing all intensive farming permits to ensure the new standards are incorporated in the permits. The responsibility to require an Environmental Impact Assessment is split between NRW and the local authorities. If an application for a permit also meets the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Wales) then NRW require an EIA at the permitting stage.

The regulations require NRW to carry out inspections of permitted installations once every three years. We have recently been able to increase the number of inspections we make at intensive poultry units in Powys as we have brought new officers into the local teams. Our inspections are detailed and thorough and are not uncovering widespread non-compliance in this part of the industry in Powys. We inspected 5 units in 2017/18 and plan to inspect 28 units this year across Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire.

Welsh Government have recently consulted on the expansion of nitrogen vulnerable zones.

A Cabinet Statement on the outcome of the Welsh Government's previous NVZ consultation was issued on 13th December 2017:
<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/NVZConsultation/?lang=en>

The Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs said that:
"I am minded to introduce a whole Wales approach to tackling nitrate pollution from agriculture. Over the coming months I will work with stakeholders to get the right balance of regulatory measures, voluntary initiatives and investment. I intend to explore options to provide land managers with flexibility, where these would achieve the same or better outcomes than a regulatory approach"

NRW are working closely with Welsh Government and the agricultural industry to ensure that any action taken is effective. The introduction of a whole territory NVZ remains a possibility, however this may not resolve the issue, as other nutrients such as Phosphate also need to be taken into account.

We believe that combining a voluntary farmer-led nutrient management scheme with underpinning regulation will deliver a better outcome than focussing only on an NVZ approach.

Yours sincerely



David Powell on behalf of Martin Cox
Head of Operations - Mid Wales

Epost/Email: [REDACTED]



CPRW - BRECON & RADNOR BRANCH and MONTGOMERY BRANCH: applications to Powys County Council for intensive poultry units since June 2015

Applications after 30th June 2015												
date valid	app.no	address 1	address 2	address 3		Easting	Northing	development type	no. units	number of birds	outcome	agent
8.7.15	P/2015/0641	Middle Garth	Aberhafesp	Newtown	SY16 3LN	309321.46	294888.98	Free-range eggs	1 new	6,000 new (only 4,000 installed)	conditional consent delegated 14.10.15	Philip Humphreys
15.7.15	P/2015/0684	Genau	Hafod Dolfor	Newtown	SY16 4AA	310359.36	287778.66	Free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 added 16,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 28.10.15	AgriAdvisor
15.7.15	P/2015/0669	Shettingau	St Harmon	Rhayader	LD7 1YA	298379.03	272762.39	Free-range eggs	1 new	8,000 added 8,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 5.10.15	Ian Pick
17.7.15	P/2015/0672	Pound Farm	Dutlas	Knighton	LD6 5LG	322250.44	276880.66	Free-range eggs	1 new	6,000 added 12,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 6.10.15	Ian Pick
20.7.15	P/2015/0662	Cwm Farm	Bwlch-Y-Ffrid	Newtown	SY22 6QW	305789.49	295864.2	Free-range eggs	1 new	32000 new	conditional consent delegated 24.2.16	AgriAdvisor
24.7.15	P/2015/0678	Lower Fawnog	Upper Sarnau	Llaynymynech	SY16 3JG	321271.32	314917.2	Free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 added 16,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 4.20.15	Roger Parry
14.8.15	P/2015/0800	Pen-y-Derw	Forden	Weshpool	SY21 8NH	322189.58	301720.75	Free-range eggs	1 new	16000 new	conditional consent delegated 4.11.15	Ian Pick
10.9.15	P/2015/0779	Dol y Coed	Tregynon	Newtown	SY16 3PY	306236.38	298091.69	Free-range eggs	1 new	32000 new	conditional consent delegated 30.6.16	Roger Parry
15.9.15	P/2015/0842	Treriggon	Dolau	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5TW	315400.19	267557.7	Free-range eggs	1 new	6,000 added 6,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 25.2.16	Roger Parry
21.9.15	P/2015/0925	Ceunant	Meifod	Powys	SY22 6BT	316829.64	313570.02	Free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 22.4.16	Roger Parry
24.9.15	P/2015/0935	Gt Cantal	Llanbister Road	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6UD	315606.94	273595.19	Free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	application withdrawn	Garner Southall
30.9.15	P/2015/0955	Wern	Llanyre	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6EE	303288.01	263380.31	Free-range eggs	1 new	32000 new	conditional consent delegated 3.5.16	AgriAdvisor
30.9.15	P/2015/0891	Maestregymer	Trefeglwys	Caerswys	SY17 5QX	296774.54	292737.78	Free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 16.3.16	Roger Parry
9.10.15	P/2015/0979	Afallenchwerw	Llanfihangll	Bryn Pabaun	LD2 3PP	298824.77	254495.94	Free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 16.3.16	Roger Parry
12.10.15	P/2015/0984	Holbach Mill Upper House	Kinnerton	Presteigne	LD8 2PE	325087.33	262738.81	Free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 29.3.16	Roger Parry
11.11.15	P/2015/1101	Pencae	Llandyssil	Montgomery	SY15 6HR	321656.94	294014.48	Free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new ?existing (M/2006/0098)	conditional consent delegated 5.4.16	Roger Parry
16.11.15	P/2015/1001	Yew tree	Kerry	Newtown	SY16 4DS	313280.1	290501.96	fertile egg production	2 new	30,500 new indoor only	conditional consent delegated 11.4.16	Berry's

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20.11.15	P/2015/1163	Cnwch	Llanbister Rd	Llandrindod W.	SY15 6HR	315204.91	275315.11	Free-range eggs	1 added	16,000 added 18,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 2.2.16	Ian Pick
4.12.15	P/2015/1207	LlwynCwttta Fm	Nantmel	Rhyader	LD6 5NT	299035.1	268955.85	Freerange broilers	1 added	12,000 added 12,000existing	conditional consent delegated 24.2.16	Ian Pick
16.12.15	P/2015/1083	Ystym Colwyn	Meifod	Powys	SY22 6XT	319003.93	316177.99	"standard" broilers	2 new	100,000 broilers indoor only	EIA/PCM 7.7.16 cond. consent 2.8.16	Roger Parry
7.1.16	P/2016/0033	Gumma Fm	Discoed	Presteigne	LD1 6UD	329109.09	265059.28	Free range broiler	1 new 2 existing	12,000 new 25,000 existing	conditional consent 10.5.16	Ian Pick
8.1.16	P/2016/0043	Great Cantal	Llanbister Rd	Llandrindod W.	LD8 2NP	315386.59	272991.41	Free range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	PCM 17.11.16 cond. cons. 24.11.16	Garner Southall
13.1.16	P/2016/0001	Gwern Y Pwll	Llanwog	Caerswys	SY17 5PA	303222.73	294783.59	Free range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 1.6.16	Agriadvisor
14.1.16	P/2016/0069	Birchfield Fm	A44 Nant Glas	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6PD	305289.62	265893.24	fertile egg production	2 new	30,500 new	conditional consent delegated 30.09.16	Berry's
15.1.16	P/2016/0070	Dudley Bank Fm	Llaihddu	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6YS	305517.7	280920.47	Free range eggs	1extension	6,000 new 12,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 11.3.16	Ian Pick
29.1.16	P/2016/0154	Clawdd Coch	Crreghofa	Llanymynech	SY22 6LF	325355.66	320281.27	Free range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 20.4.16	Roger Parry
3.2.16	P/2016/0133	Crug Nant Adfa		Newtown	SY16 3DF	304851.11	300786.94	Free range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 9.6.16	Agriadvisor
22.3.16	P/2016/0193	Cecappin	Tregynon	Newtown	SY16 3PB	309611.37	296490.03	Free range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 5.8.16	Agriadvisor
14.3.16	P/2016/0238	Gorn Farm	The Gorn	Llanidloes	SY18 6LA	297195.43	284559.03	Free range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 5.8.16	Agriadvisor
18.3.16	P/2016/0314	The Hendre	Felindre	Knighton	LD7 1YT	315025.76	281988.54	broiler rearing	2 added	87,500 added 87,500 existing	EIA/PCM 24.8.16 cond. cons. 21.10.16	Ian Pick
21.3.16	P/2016/0317	Dolau Jenkin Farm	Pen Y Bont	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6UT	310757.54	264990.95	Free range eggs	1 extension 1 new	26,000 new 38,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 12.7.16	Ian Pick
1.4.16	P/2016/0363 part retrospective	Bryn Teg	Cilmawr	Meifod	SY22 6XZ	318674	314636.74	Free range eggs	2 new "mobile"	8,000 new	conditional consent delegated 31.8.16	Roger Parry
25.5.16	P/2016/0540	Lower Bryn y Groes	Meifod	Powys	SY22 6YG	314315.8	309910.05	free-range pullet rearing	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 31.8.16	Roger Parry
26.5.16	P/2016/0585	Treriggon Dolau	Llandindrod Wells	Powys	LD1 5TW	315308.15	267510.62	organic free-range egg	1new	6,000new added to 18,000	conditional consent delegated 21.12.16	Ian Pick
6.6.16	P/2016/0616	Church House	Michaelchurch on Arrow	Kington	HR5 3QD	324595.98	250637.87	fertile egg production	2 new	23,500 new	conditional consent PCM 24.11.16	Berry's
9.6.16	P/2016/0617	Cefnlech	Pant-y-dwr	Rhayader	LD6 5LR	295466.97	277295.83	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent no date on consent	Agriadvisor
15.6.16	P/2016/0641	Gwernorg-llwydd	Penybont Llandegley	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5UG	315259.85	260379.58	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 18.1.17	Ian Pick
4.7.16	P/2016/0608	Craignant	Painscastle	Builth Wells	LD2 3JQ	313227.03	245569.58	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 added 12,000 existing	EIA development invalid application 27.11.16	Zoe Aubrey Cardiff

13.7.16	P/2016/0756	Blackwood	Berriew	Welshpool	SY21 8QH	315832.74	298816.58	free-range eggs	2 extensions: existing shed	16,000 added 16,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 13.1.17	Ian Pick
14.7.16	P/2016/0755	Blackwood	Berriew	Welshpool	SY21 8QH	315727.74	298903.86	free-range eggs	part of above	see above	conditional consent delegated 13.1.17	Ian Pick
17.7.16	P/2016/0700	Wern Farm	Gladestry	Kington	HR5 3PP	324073.7	256083.39	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent PCM 22.6.17	Claire Harness Bowler Eggs
22.7.16	P/2016/0776	Upper Croscynon	Llanbister	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6TL	312445.4	273697.93	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new existing 32,000	conditional consent delegated 17.3.17	Ian Pick
22.7.16	P/2016/0779	Lake Farm	Churchstoke	Montgomery	SY15 6TG	324285.13	291469.94	indoor broilers	2 added existing	90,000 added 90,000 existing (scoping for 80,000) (prev. app. for 80,000)	EIA/PCM 17.11.16 cond. cons. 24.11.16	Ian Pryce Prop. Services
28.7.16	P/2016/0787	Domgay Hall	Llanymynech	Powys	SY22 6SW	327913.04	319288.53	indoor broilers	2 new	100,000 broilers	EIA/PCM / cond. cons. No date	Roger Parry
2.8.16	P/2016/082	Upper Esgair	Llanbadarn Ffynd	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6YB	309171.97	279317.6	free range eggs -> to organic f.r. eggs	extension to existing	100,000 existing no change in no.	conditional consent delegated 27.9.16	Ian Pick
17.8.16	P/2016/0869	Grove Farm	Knighton	Powys	LD7 1LN	328963.03	270887.58	Free range broilers	1 added existing	11,500 added 23,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 20.12.16	Ian Pick
17.10.16	P/2016/0936	Lower Hall	Meifod	Powys	SY22 6HR	314826.38	309910.05	free range pullet rearing (16 weeks)	1 new 1 existing	24,000 or 36,000 new? 32,000 pullet existing	NO EIA/PCM 2.2.17 cond. cons. 2.2.17	Roger Parry
3.1.16	2016/0916916	Upper Gwestydd	Cefn Mawr	Newtown	SY16 3LA	311808.25	293730.9	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	refused delegated 24.11.17	Agriadvisor
18.1.16	P/2016/0916	Gwernfach	Bettws Disserth	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5RW	310330.82	256694.55	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 28.4.17	Ian Pick
16.12.16	P/2016/1253	Hill Ground	Llanbister	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6YB	311521.3	274748.44	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 27.4.17	Ian Pick
23.12.16	P/2016/1247	Pertheirin Pontdolgoch	Caersws	Powys	SY17 5NJ	300862.17	293640.25	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 19.7.17	Roger Parry
11.1.17	P/2017/0007	Dolobran Hall	Pont Robert	Meifod	SY22 6JE	312016.4	312648.27	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 extension added to 32,000	WG overturned EIA still active	Roger Parry
20.2.17	P/2107/0185	Rallt	Carno	Caersws	SY17 5JX	293308.41	298703.68	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 28.6.17	Roger Parry
22.2.17	P/2016/0397	Lower Hse Fm	Clyro	Hereford	HR3 5RU	322207.34	244602.32	fertile egg production	2 new	23,500 new	EIA/PCM 1.2.18 cond. cons. 2.2.18 P/2009/0744 not built	Berry's
13.3.17	P/2017/0281	Henblas Pontdolgoch	Caersws	Powys	SY17 5JE	301543.46	293716.37	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 22.9.17	Roger Parry
16.3.17	P/2017/0274	Drewern	Hundred House	Powys	LD1 5RR	313654.67	256131.06	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 21.12.17	Roger Parry
29.3.17	P/2017/0344	Cefn Barach	Trefglwys	Caersws	SY17 5QG	296240	291313.11	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new, 32,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 13.7.17	Roger Parry
31.3.17	P/2017/0325	Cwmroches	Penybont	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5SY	310725.17	263960.63	broiler breeding rearing to 18 weeks	2 new	38,000 new	EIA/PCM 5.10.17 cond.cons. 11.10.17	Berry's

12.04.17	P/2017/0408	The Bache Farm	New Radnor	Presteigne	LD8 2DG	322393.46	262775.49	free-range eggs	1 new 2 existing	16,000 new to 8,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 25.8.17	Roger Parry
13.04.17	P/2017/0418	Middle Garth Aberhafesp	Newtown	Powys	SY16 3LN	309456.7	295039.62	organic free-range eggs	1new 1 existing	4,000 to 4,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 30.6.17	Roger Parry
5.5.17	P/2017/0367	Middle Crochren	Llaihddu	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6YT	307957.74	280667.68	free-range eggs	1 new ? existing	6,000 added 16,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 11.10.17	Roger Parry
15.5.17	P/2017/0549	Glangwden	Trefeglwys	Caersws	SY17 5PX	296106.95	288790.36	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	32,000 added 32,000 existing	EIA/still active	Roger Parry
25.5.17	P/2017/0491	Tansomalia	Felindre	Knighton	LD7 1YR	315918.94	280075.96	Pullet rearing	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 27.9.17	Roger Parry
7.6.17	P/2017/0644	Plasiolyn	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 0DJ	309312.99	304698.91	Pullet rearing	1 new	37,000 new	conditional consent delegated 2.8.17	Roger Parry
7.6.17	P/2017/0640	Craignant	Painscastle	Builth Wells	LD2 3JQ	313227.3	245569.01	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	16,000 added 12,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 2.11.17	Zoe Aubrey Cardiff
13.6.17	P/2017/0543	Siluria Farm	Lower Yardo	Old Radnor	LD8 2RP	322633.96	258546.81	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	10,000 to existing 22,000 unit and 16,000new	still active	Ian Pick
16.06.17	P/2017/0681	Land adj.Holbach Mill	Kinnerton	Presteigne	LD8 2PE	324945.76	262679.16	free-range eggs	1 extention to 1 existing	16,000 added 16,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 12.10.17	Roger Parry
20.06.17	P/2017/0667	Gaufron Farm	Howey	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5RG	304017.92	256724.39	broilers replacing egg prodn	5 existing 2replacement	56,000 broilers replacing 33,000 layers	conditional consent PCM on 16.10.17	Berry's (Cargills)
26.6.17	P/2017/0722	Tynewydd	Llansilin	Oswestry	SY10 7QF	320856.92	326880.94	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 15.11.17	Roger Parry
28.6.17	P/2017/0729	Upper Penarran	Kerry	Newtown	SY16 4PW	312943.73	287930.54	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
13.6.17	P/2017/0810	Dolymelinau	Tregynon	Newtown	SY16 3PS	309180.21	299532.5	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	39,999new	conditional consent delegated 21.3.18	Roger Parry
25.7.17	P/2017/0863	Tyncelyn	Oakley Park	Llanidloes	SY18 6LP	299630.93	285781.51	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 15.2.18	Roger Parry
27.7.17	P/2017/0836	Land at Rhos y Glas Coed	Meifod		SY22 6HW	313270.92	313524.31	free-range eggs mobile unit	1 new 1existing	3,000 added 3,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 27.3.18	Roger Parry
28.7.17	P/2017/0729	Upper Penarran	Kerry	Newtown	SY16 4PW	312943.73	287930.54	free-range eggs	1new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 4.5.18	Roger Parry
8.8.17	P/2017/0687	Brun Owen	Trefeglwys	Caerswys	SY17 5QX	320493.39	316760.13	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 4.1.18	Roger Parry
9.8.17	P/2017/0921	Cefn Gwyn	Dolfor	Newtown	SY16 4AS	311378.76	288085.94	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	14,000 added 12,000 existing	conditional consent delegated 7.2.18	Roger Parry
14.8.17	P/2017/0274	Drewern	Hundred House	Llandrindod W.	LD1 5RR	313654.67	256131.06	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 21.12.17	Roger Parry
17.8.17	P/2017/0941	Henfaes Bettws	Cedewain	Newtown	SY16 3ED	311658.19	297205.53	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 28.2.17	Roger Parry
23.8.17	P/2017/0978	Middletown Fm	Bachelldre Lane	Middletown	SY21 8DD	329958.75	311349.39	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 25.4.18	Roger Parry
7.9.17	P/2017/1031	Tanhouse	Dolau	Llandindrod Wells	LD1 5TL	316311.87	267581.1	free-range broilers	1 new 1existing	11,350 added 11,350 existing	conditional consent delegated 27.2.18	Ian Pick

4.9.17	P/2017/1021	Penrhiew	Llandinam	Caersws	SY175AF	305078.61	289401.47	free-range eggs mobile unit	1 new	4000 new	conditional consent delegated 4.5.18	Roger Parry
8..9.17	P/2017/0980	Farchwel	Llanfihangel	Llanfyllin	SY22 5JF	309397.4	315567.14	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	34,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
18.9.17	P/2017/1069	Penllwyn Farm	Llanfyllin		SY22 5EW	313902.37	318699.29	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	38,000 new	conditional consent delegated 12.4.18	Roger Parry
18.9.17	P/2017/1071	Rhiuwhiriaeth Isaf	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 ODU	309311.61.	306337.57	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	consent UNDATED Building Reg App.req?	Roger Parry
6.9.17	P/2017/1044	Hendre Poeth	Llnasant-friadym	Mechain	SY22 6TJ	321905.69	318481.7	broilers	replacement 2 new	100,000 new	EIA PCM 3.5.18 cond. consent 3.5.18	Roger Parry
26.9.17	P/2017/1079	The Park	Llanbister Road	Llandindrod Wells	LD1 6SR	316247.56	271606.4	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	conditional consent delegated 1.3.18	Ian Pick
27.9.17	P/2017/1109	Ddole Farm	Llanbister	Llandindrod Wells	LD1 6SS	312958.2	272184.52	broilers	4 existing 1 new	125,000 existing 35,000new	EIA but delegated decision cond. cons.1.3.18	Ian Pick
27.9.17	P/2017/1047	Gorn farm	The Gorn	Llanidloes	SY18 6LA	297431.5	284512.07	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	32,000 existing 32,000 new	> 60K FRBs but not EIA conditional consent. . delegated 15.3.18	Ian Pick
4.10.17	P/2017/1143	Brynsaesneg	Crossgates	Llandindrod Wells	LD1 5SW	310383.14	262985.74	organic free-range eggs	1 new ?existing separate land	12,000 new existing on separate land	conditional consent delegated 2.2.18	Ian Pick
4.10.17	P/2017/1089	Lower Trederwen Fm	Arddleen	Llanymynech	SY22 6PY	326750.77	315870.31	broilers	2 new	100,000new + biomass store	EIA/still active	Roger Parry
12.10.17	P/2017/1149	Wern y Weeg	Dolanog	Welshpool	SY21 0LF	307444.78	312840.45	free range pullet rearing	1 new ?existing separate land	37,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
19.10.17	P/2017/1165	Pikins Farm	Carno	Newtown	SY17 5JU	294520.54	298327.33	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
23.10.17	P/2017/1232	Corin Garth	Llangammarch Wells	Powys	LD4 4BL	296339.75	248808.16	free range pullet rearing	1 new	36,600 new	conditional consent delegated 7.3.18	Roger Parry
23.10.17	P/2017/1116	Neuaddfach	Nantmel	Rhayader	LD6 5PE	302399.44	269135.57	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
3.11.17	P/2017/1285	Gelli Farm	Llan	Llanbryn-mair	SY19 7DN	289634.13	301112.37	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	36,600 new	conditional consent delegated 23.4.18	Roger Parry
9.11.17	P/2017/1264	Upper Bryn	Abermule	Montgomery	SY15 6JW	317220.9	293952.71	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	conditional consent delegated 14.3.18	Ian Pryce Prop. Services
17.11.17	P/2017/1346	Pen-y-Derw Grove Lane	Forden	Welshpool	SY21 8NH	322266.69	301805.5	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	16,000 new 16,000 existing	still active	Roger Parry
21.11.2017	P/2017/1298	Black Hall	Llandyssil	Montgomery	SY15 6HR	320356.94	294049.12	free-range eggs	1 new 1existing	32,000 new 32,000 existing	EIA PCM 12.4.18 cond. consent 13.4.18	Ian Pryce Prop. Services
8.12.17	P/2017/1437	Dol y Garreg	Llnwrthwl	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6NW	296020.15	265782.38	pullets (18wk rearing)	1 new	12,000 new	EIA PCM 24.5.18 cond. consent ?decision notice	Gareth Price Build. Surveyor
07.12.2017	P/2017/1429	Rhosgrug	Llanbister Rd	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6UD	317170.33	272929.5	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
25.1.18	P/2018/0023	Garn	Llanbadarn Ffynd	Llandrindod W.	LD1 6YE	310206.44	281875.38	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	76,000 new	still active	Roger Parry

16.2.18	P/2018/0219	Brynrhug	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 ODG	310913.01	304233.63	free-range eggs	1 new	16,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
6.2.18	P/2018/0185	Pentre Penarth	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 0BY	310090.62	305042.43	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	36600 new	still active	Roger Parry
27.2.18	P/2018/0260	Nant Wylt	Cefn Coch	Welshpool	SY21 0AY	302417.53	302621.92	free-range eggs	1 new	12,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
8.3.18	P/2018/0266	Cross Farm	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 ODP	306912.46	304979.04	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
12.3.18	P/2018/0313	Rhos Fawr	Llanfair Caereinion	Welshpool	SY21 9HD	312151.97	306145.79	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	38,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
19.3.18	P/2018/0342	Tynyberth	Abbeycwmhir	Llandindrod Wells	LD1 6PU	307160.77	273561.07	organic free-range eggs	1 new	4,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
21.3.18	P/2018/0322	Ystym Colwyn	Meifod	Powys	SY22 6ST	319201.71	316420.83	broilers	4 new	200,000 new 100,000 existing	EIA/still active	Roger Parry
5.4.18	P/2018/0385	Drefor Farm	Kerry	Newtown	SY16 4PQ	316609.53	289345.58	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
25.4.18	P/2018/0393	Tynywtra Llanwnog	Caresws	Powys	SY17 5JG	302786	293568	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	38,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
30.4.18	P/2018/0474	Land nr Muslop Farm	Trelystan Leighton	Welshpool	SY21 8JA	327586.83	306118.69	free-range eggs	1 new 1 existing	32,000 new 32,000 existing	still active FIA? >60,000	Roger Parry
2.5.18	P/2018/0466	Tyn yr Wtra	Llanwyddelan	Newtown	SY16 3BT	308738.42	301309.17	free-range eggs	1 new	32,000 new	still active	Roger Parry
16.5.18	P/2018/0538	Lynwood	Churchstoke	Montgomery	SY15 6DT	324796.58	292874.01	pullets (16wk rearing)	1 new	38,000 new	still active	Roger Parry

LAST UPDATED May 28th 2018. This information is drawn from the Powys website weekly application lists and requires checking. We would be grateful for notification of any mistakes.

changes since last update on April 3rd 2018 are highlighted in green

application CPRW missed in the early application stage

Mr David J Rowlands AM
Chair of Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1NA

By email: SeneddPetitions@Assembly.Wales

17 August 2018

Dear Mr Rowlands

Thank you for your letter of 21 June 2018 about the expanding poultry industry within Wales and its impact on the environment, and please accept our apologies for the delay in response.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) agrees that the intensification of agriculture along with some farming practice can result in environmental degradation of biodiversity, soil, air and water quality.

It is important to clarify that NRW's role as a regulator in relation to Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs) is through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (EPR), and is only for those that have more than 40,000 bird places. The emissions from these units can be tightly regulated through an environmental permit, but those units that are below this threshold are currently outside the environmental regulatory framework. Instead, these small units fall to the Local Planning System where our role is limited to being a statutory consultee within the planning process.

We recognise that the thresholds within the EPR are set through European derived legislation, but there may be an opportunity for Welsh Government (WG) to consider in the future whether these continue to be appropriate, given recent expansion of units and particularly with regard to the proliferation of units below the 40,000 bird places threshold.

Evidence shows that atmospheric releases of ammonia is having an impact on a number of protected sites in Wales. In addition, wastes arising from livestock also pose a significant risk to water quality in Wales. Manures and slurries, where these are directly applied to land,

are currently not sufficiently covered by the environmental regulatory framework or via the planning system. WG may also wish to consider whether there are further opportunities to include improved clarity and protection in legislation to ensure that with proper regulation, control and adherence to good farming practice, any potential environmental impact could be significantly reduced or eliminated.

In response to the specific points raised in the petition letter, we make the following comments:

1. *For WG to provide proper resources for NRW to do urgent research, regulate and monitor IPUs and give better planning help to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).*

For the IPUs that we are regulate (that have more than 40,000 bird places) there are just under 100 farms in Wales. We are able to recover our costs for our permitting and regulatory work for these units via our Fees and Charges scheme. There are a far larger number of farms that are below this threshold that would be outside of any environmental regulatory cost recovery system.

A previous report by NRW has demonstrated that the smaller unregulated units can pose a greater threat from atmospheric releases than the larger NRW regulated units (NRW Evidence Report no 218: *Powys Poultry Pilot Study: An assessment of cumulative atmospheric releases*). However, our pilot study was based on a very limited geographical area in Powys. To assess whether there is merit in changing the regulatory thresholds in the future to cover units below 40,000 bird places (either through permitting or the application of general binding rules), then firstly WG would need to consider the current impacts that may be occurring across Wales, which have not yet been quantified.

As already indicated, some of the impact of IPUs relates to the application of manure to land at inappropriate times and/or where the land does not have the capacity to absorb the nutrients it contains. This results in nutrients being washed into watercourses during periods of rain and causing pollution. For those units that we regulate, the land-spreading of manure is not currently included in legislation as part of the regulated activity of the IPUs, so we are not able to control it beyond providing advice on good practice. In response to the recent WG Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Consultation, we advocated the development of 'basic measures' to provide us the tools to minimise the impact. A legal requirement to carry out an assessment of land prior to any land-spreading of manure would also help. There would need to be thought prior to any legislative change as to the potential consequence of large amounts of manure without a disposal route, although this could be the impetus for innovation and different ways for dealing with this issue. Therefore, any changes to the current legislation would require detailed evaluation to assess its overall impact, and given appropriate additional resource NRW would be able to contribute to this research. This improved understanding could inform and provide additional support to the Local Planning Authorities.

2. For WG to issue planning policy and guidance to LPAs to improve decisions, ensure cumulative impacts are considered and monitor and enforce planning conditions.

In April 2017, after extensive consideration of new evidence, NRW introduced tighter air quality thresholds to support our regulatory role. We have supported this with new guidance (**Guidance Note 20: Assessing the impact of ammonia and nitrogen on designated sites from new and expanding intensive livestock units**), and training for appropriate NRW staff and individuals from some Welsh local authorities.

This guidance is aimed at supporting local authority planners and NRW permitting officers in their assessment of planning and environmental permit applications respectively. The guidance requires that new units are assessed in terms of background and cumulative impacts so that any permissions issued can include appropriate conditions to ensure no adverse environmental consequences result. These new thresholds are also being adopted by some English planning authorities, for example Shropshire.

The development of a strategic approach, with guidance from WG could further help protect human health and the natural environment. NRW would be willing to support WG in producing such guidance to help the industry develop in a sustainable fashion to support agricultural development post Brexit.

3. WG to make the industry contribute towards the costs of regulation and monitoring and hold it to account for breach of environmental responsibility.

As already indicated, all operators that require an Environmental Permit pay for the cost of regulation through application fees and annual subsistence fees. We updated our Charging Scheme in 2017 to reflect the costs of regulation of IUPs, significantly increasing the cost of applications and expansions to ensure we have the resources to assess the impact of the proposed development. This ensures that any permit we issue is protective of the environment.

Any non-compliance with permit conditions is investigated, and appropriate corrective actions required from the site. Appropriate enforcement action will also be taken for pollution incidents with costs being recovered from the polluter.

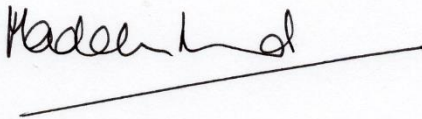
4. Publish transparent public reports on progress.

For those installations that require an environmental permit, all inspection records and monitoring submissions are publicly available on request. Our evidence reports are also available, including the Powys Pilot Study referred to above.

Finally, you raise whether NRW could be further empowered to look at the cumulative effects of multiple developments within an area, which might otherwise fall outside of the current regulatory regime. We would like to work with the Local Authorities to look at such cumulative effects to aid in improving future planning decisions, however, we would require additional resources and to recover our costs for this work.

I hope the above information is helpful in your consideration of the petition raised with your Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madeleine Havard', is written above a solid horizontal line.

Dr Madeleine Havard
Cadeirydd Dros Dro
Acting Chair

Mark Drakeford AM
First Minister of Wales
National Assembly for Wales

28 February 2019

Dear First Minister of Wales

Scrutiny of Legislative Consent Memorandums

Since November 2018, the Committee has undertaken scrutiny of three Legislative Consent Memorandums, two of which are Brexit-related. Given you have overall responsibility for constitutional affairs, the Committee agreed I should write to you:

- seeking clarification on how the Welsh Government determines whether or not it is appropriate for the UK Government to legislate in areas of devolved competence, and
- seeking clarity about the Welsh Government’s legislative programme for the rest of this Assembly and whether it is your intention to make time available for Welsh legislation arising from Brexit.

On 11 January, you wrote to the Llywydd explaining that the Welsh Ministers are seeking delegated powers under Brexit-related UK Bills in preference to bringing forward Bills to the Assembly. This is because the Welsh Government “would not have been able to bring this volume of legislation before the Assembly in such a compressed time period”. You point out that if all Brexit legislation in devolved areas was to be made in Wales, “then between September 2018 and March 2019 it would have required an additional...4-6 Bills to be laid in the Assembly.”



We would like to raise a number of points in relation to the above.

Firstly, it appears that this assertion is based on the premise that all of the legislative provisions within these Bills would be required for exit day. We do not believe this is correct. In the case of the UK Agriculture Bill, any legislative gap arising from Brexit would occur after the 2020 CAP scheme year. Consequently, primary legislation is not required by March 2019. Similarly, the UK Fisheries Bill contains provisions that go beyond those necessary to establish a UK common approach before Brexit.

For both UK Bills, it is not necessary for all of their provisions to be passed before Brexit. The provisions that go beyond those necessary to ensure continuity in the immediate post Brexit period could have been captured in Welsh Bills. It is clear, therefore, that there was no requirement for these Bills to be laid in the Assembly before the end of March 2019.

Secondly, during its recent scrutiny of several LCMs, the Committee has found it difficult to discern a rationale for the Welsh Government's decision that it is appropriate for the UK Government to legislate in an area of devolved competence. For example, the Welsh Government has sought to use the UK Agriculture Bill as a vehicle to introduce fundamental and wide-ranging changes to the system of financial support for agriculture. Conversely, the Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Bill includes narrow, non-contentious provisions that could have been brought forward in a Welsh Bill.

I would be grateful if you could clarify whether the Welsh Government's approach to the use of the Legislative Consent process is underpinned by any principles and, if so, what they may be.

What actions are you planning to take if the UK Agriculture and Fisheries Bills, which you state must be passed by Parliament by the end of March 2019, are not passed by that date?

The second matter the Committee wishes to address relates to the Welsh Government's Legislative Programme.

In your predecessor's Statement on the Legislative Programme in July 2018, he gave a commitment "to continue to keep under review the need for Brexit-related Bills over the coming 12 months". He also said that "there has been space created in the legislative programme to ensure that there is room to develop Brexit Bills".



The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs has assured the Committee she intends for Welsh Bills in relation to Agriculture and Fisheries to be introduced and to have been passed by the end of the Fifth Assembly. The Minister has also given a commitment to bring forward legislation to address the environmental governance gap arising from Brexit at the first opportunity.

The Committee would be grateful if you could confirm that the Welsh Government's position has not changed on this matter and that time will be made available to bring forward Welsh Bills arising from Brexit before the end of this Assembly.

I am copying this letter to the Llywydd and the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

I look forward to receiving a response from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

cc Llywydd and the Chair of Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee



Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

28 February 2019

Dear Lesley

Environmental governance and principles

Thank you for your letter, dated 7 February, in relation to the UK Government's draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill and the Welsh Government's proposals for environmental governance following the UK's exit from the European Union (EU).

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 21 February and agreed I should write to you to follow up on a number of issues.

Firstly, we are disappointed by the delay in responding to the Committee's request for information and that the response that was received failed to answer several questions asked by the Committee. This is the second occasion we have felt it necessary to write again to ask you to fully address the issues raised in earlier correspondence. We fully acknowledge the workload pressures on your department arising from Brexit. Follow up letters and the work they generate can be avoided if the initial response is comprehensive.

We would like you to address a number of questions that remain outstanding from our initial letter, and for you to expand on your response to others.

Analysis of the environmental governance gap in Wales

In responding to our June 2018 report, *Environmental governance arrangements and environmental principles post-Brexit*, you advised that you were undertaking analysis of the environmental governance gaps as they relate to Wales.



1. Can you clarify whether this analysis has been completed? If so when will the findings be made available?

Contingency plans for a no deal Brexit

In our letter of 10 January, we asked you to clarify what environmental governance arrangements would be in place in the event of a no deal Brexit. You told us that “existing accountability bodies, such as the Public Services Ombudsman, will continue to receive citizens’ complaints and our Future Generations Commissioner will continue to act as the guardian of sustainable development.”

As you have previously pointed out, bodies such as these have been established with a specific role, purpose and constitutional structure. The bodies to which you refer do not:

- have powers to investigate complaints about compliance with environmental law;
- have powers of enforcement where complaints about compliance with environmental law are upheld; or
- have a role in monitoring, measuring and reporting on the Welsh Government’s performance on environmental policy and delivery in Wales.

Given this, and in view of the current functions of the bodies you refer to, we question whether it would be appropriate or reasonable to rely on them to fill any environmental governance gaps, even on an interim basis.

2. Please explain in more detail how you envisage existing bodies will maintain effective environmental governance, in the event of a no deal Brexit.

3. How do the functions of these bodies align with the environmental governance functions currently exercised at an EU level?

4. What discussions have you had with existing bodies, including the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Future Generations Commissioner, about their role in maintaining effective environmental governance, in the event of a no deal Brexit? In particular, whether they have sufficient capacity, expertise and resources to undertake any additional work associated with this.

A new environmental governance body



We are disappointed that the consultation on environmental principles and governance has been the subject of considerable delay. We presume that the responses to this consultation will inform your decisions on a range of pressing issues, including a new governance body.

You have made clear that the UK Government's proposed Office for Environmental Protection ('OEP') for England is not workable for Wales, or compatible with the devolution settlement or existing Welsh legislation. Notwithstanding this, you told us that you "remain ready to work collaboratively on potential UK-wide approaches" and "continue to proactively engage with the UK Government".

5. What changes would need to be made to the provisions in relation to the OEP in order for it to be workable for Wales, and what discussions have you had with the UK Government in this regard?

6. Can you clarify whether there will be sufficient time available, following the outcome of your forthcoming consultation, to co-design with the UK Government any relevant legislative proposals, including those for the OEP?

7. What opportunity will there be for Assembly scrutiny of any such legislative proposals?

A future Welsh Bill

In our June 2018 report, *Environmental governance arrangements and environmental principles post-Brexit*, we highlighted the need for greater clarity on how and when the Welsh Government would legislate to address any governance gap arising from Brexit. We are disappointed that, almost nine months on, this clarity has yet to be provided.

While the implementation period would provide the Welsh Government with some time to develop alternative environmental governance arrangements, there would be limited time within which to pass, and subsequently implement legislation, before that period ends in December 2020. Furthermore, we are aware that you have already committed to introducing two other Brexit-related Bills, with the intention of them being passed before the end of the Fifth Assembly.

8. Can you clarify whether there is sufficient flexibility within the legislative programme to introduce a Welsh Bill on environmental principles and governance in this Assembly?

Given that exit day is now imminent, I should be grateful if you would respond as a matter of urgency, and by 14 March at the latest.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee



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Agenda Item 6

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

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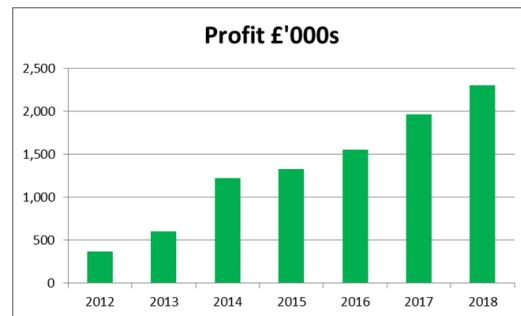
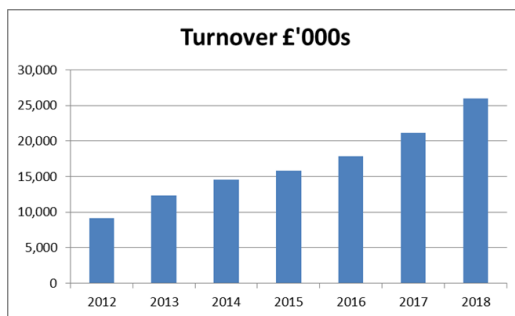
Agenda Item 7

Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig | Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
 Ailfeddwl am fwyd yng Nghymru: brandio a phrosesu bwyd | Rethinking food in Wales: food branding and food processing

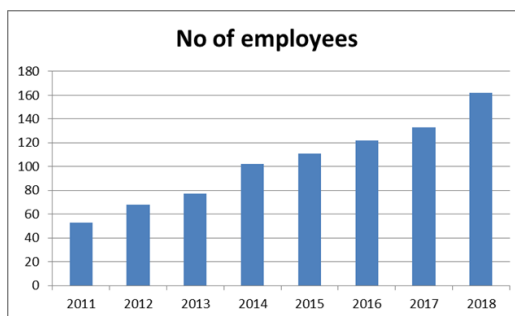
Puffin Produce Ltd

Welsh Government support for Food Processors – the Puffin Produce success story

Puffin Produce Limited is the largest fresh produce supplier in Wales, supplying mainly potatoes, alongside an expanding vegetable range, to the major retailers' Welsh stores. The business has grown significantly in recent years, from a turnover of circa £7m in 2010, to £28m per annum for the year ending 30 June 2019.



Throughout this expansion the company has created a higher proportion of highly skilled value added job roles, as it is not just an investment in infrastructure but an investment in people that enables a company to achieve its potential.



Employee's earnings	March 2011		June 2018	
	No.	%	No.	%
£0 to £20,000	39	74%	87	54%
£20,001 to £30,000	9	17%	40	25%
£30,001 +	5	9%	35	22%
Total	53	100%	162	100%

The success of the company is underpinned by the loyalty of the Welsh consumer and their demand for locally sourced Welsh fresh produce. It is widely recognised that 'regionality' works in Wales and Puffin has created like for like sales uplifts of between 20% to 33% when supermarket label 'union jack' potatoes and vegetables are replaced with 'Welsh flag' potatoes and vegetables. A volume uplift of 33% was achieved when Puffin began supplying a comprehensive potato range to the 47 Welsh Aldi stores in 2017.

A range of Welsh Government support has facilitated this growth

Over the last 8 years the company has spent £14m on buildings and infrastructure and its facilities and operation are now one of the most modern and efficient in Europe. However, due to Puffin's location in Haverfordwest, the latest valuation carried out by Lambert Smith Hampton on behalf of HSBC, in October 2017, gave a valuation of Puffin's site and buildings of £4.4m.

As Puffin's borrowing capacity (in the form of term debt) is set at 80% of this valuation, Puffin's ability to borrow to grow is severely curtailed by the low valuation of its main assets, due to its geographic location.

However, Welsh Government (and EU) support through grant assistance and other Food and Drink Wales programmes, has helped overcome what would have been insurmountable economic barriers:

Processing and Marketing Grant – 2012 to 2015 – Capex of £12m with grant support £5.8m

Food Business Investment Scheme – 2016 to 2018 – Capex of £12m with grant support of £4.8m

Enterprise Zone rate relief – 2014/15 and 2016/17 – rate relief totalling £120K

Technical support - Cardiff Metropolitan University Zero2Five Food Industry Centre - £40K

Flexible Skills Programme – colleague development programme - £25K

Technical assistance for the application to gain PGI status for Pembrokeshire Early Potatoes - £20K

What has this done for the Pembrokeshire economy?

Of Puffin's annual turnover of £28m approximately 90% goes straight back into the Pembrokeshire economy, primarily through colleague salaries and sourcing potatoes from Pembrokeshire's farmers (creating many on-farm jobs). This 'multiplier effect' should be viewed favourably when comparing the Puffin business to a similar turnover business, that for example, assembles imported components, where only the staff salaries benefit the local economy.

Puffin also contributes circa £2m per annum to the exchequer through PAYE, VAT and Corporation Tax.

What next? What can Welsh Government support achieve?

Puffin has two major projects planned for the Pembrokeshire Food Park. If the Welsh Government can provide a similar percentage of grant support, Puffin has investor and bank backing for a total Capex of £38m over the next three years (including a prepared veg and potato factory at £10.5m and a milk bottling facility at £22m). This would take Puffin's turnover to £100m per annum. This in turn would deliver £1 billion back to the Pembrokeshire economy over the next ten years and create 500 jobs.