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13 October 2021

Dear John & Aled

## **Welsh Government's delivery of the Wales Rural Development Plan 2014–2020**

I refer to my interim reply of 21 July.

The Welsh Government have now responded to my letter providing an update on the Welsh Government's progress in delivering the RDP particularly any improvements being made to the application process and an assessment of the level of risk that unspent funds will be forfeited. I attach a copy of the response.

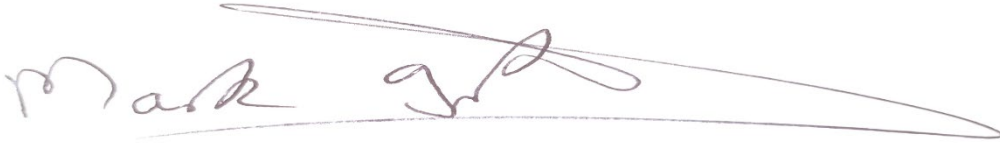
The Welsh Government states that improvements have been introduced in the application process, with the development of a single stage application process using the Welsh Government's Rural Payments Wales (RPW) online portal. The Welsh Government also states that the new process is designed to capture and use all information in a single system, streamlining the appraisal and claims approval process for beneficiaries.

In addition, the Welsh Government states that it is currently undertaking an exercise to verify aspects of individual project administration and delivery, such as competitive tendering requirements, before the formal in-situ administrative checks are undertaken towards the end of a project.

Finally the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales made an announcement on 21 September 2021, of a package of further commitments, including a reasonable element of over-programming, to be made through the RDP. Hopefully, this approach should further mitigate the risk of unspent funds being forfeited.

Please let me have your feedback if you would like us to consider this further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Isherwood', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Mark Isherwood MS  
Committee Chair

**Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a  
Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus**

**Public Accounts and Public  
Administration Committee**

John Davies  
President NFU Cymru  
Aled Jones Deputy President NFU Cymru

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21 July 2021

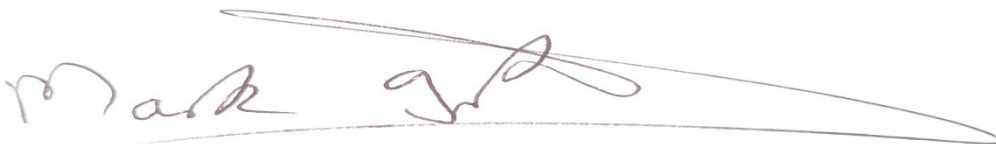
Dear John and Aled

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Thank you for your letter of 6 July and your kind words following my election as Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee. I am honoured to have been elected to Chair this influential Committee.

Further to the previous correspondence you had with my predecessor in late 2020/early 2021 on the issue of the Welsh Government's delivery of the Wales Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, I am writing to the Welsh Government seeking an update on the response received from them earlier this year. On receipt of this I will write to you substantively.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Isherwood MS  
Committee Chair

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