

Lesley Griffiths

Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Welsh Government

26 November 2021

## Impact of future Agriculture Bill on Welsh language communities

Dear Lesley

At the Committee's meeting on 29 September 2021, the Welsh Language Commissioner shared concerns regarding the wider impacts of Brexit on Welsh speaking rural communities, most notably within the agricultural sector.

In correspondence received following the meeting, the Commissioner noted concerns regarding the impact of replacing existing agricultural support schemes "on smaller family farms which sustain a number of Welsh language communities". The Commissioner further noted that the Welsh Government's proposals "will be more advantageous to large landowners" and that as "family farms have less land in general, it is possible that they would not be able to designate a proportion of their land for projects which will have environmental results without it having a detrimental impact on their ability to produce food."

In the same letter, the Commissioner states that the Welsh Language Impact Assessment in the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper did not adequately address this issue. The main reason for this is that "it did not acknowledge the possibility that the policy could be more harmful than positive for the Welsh language."

The Committee considers the future of these family farms as the bedrock of the Welsh language in agricultural communities. In light of these concerns, the Committee would like to know:

- What further considerations has the Welsh Government taken in regards to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment since the publication of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill White Paper?

- What does the Welsh Government consider to be the key impacts of its proposals (as outlined in the White Paper) on Welsh speaking agricultural communities?
- How is the Welsh Government intending to mitigate the impacts that have been identified?
- What financial support is the Welsh Government considering providing in order to ensure that its approach in the Bill will have a positive impact on the Welsh language in rural communities?

I look forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell AS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, International Relations and Sport Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

