

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell AS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, International Relations
and Sports Committee

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

15 December 2021

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter dated 26th November regarding the Impact of the future Agricultural Bill on Welsh language communities.

We recognise Welsh agriculture is at the heart of many of our Welsh speaking rural communities. Our aim is to create a sustainable agriculture sector in Wales for future generations. Policy change is needed however if we are to have a prosperous and resilient farming sector in the future.

Agriculture plays a key role in supporting the Welsh language to thrive in our rural communities. By supporting farmers to manage their land sustainably, our proposals aim to balance the needs of the current generation with those of the next whilst supporting the resilience of Welsh-speaking communities.

Future farm support will reward farmers who take action to meet the climate and natural emergencies challenges. The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme will be different to the current Basic Payment Scheme. The fundamental change will be the level of payment will be linked to the actions an active farmer undertakes.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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

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

There will be opportunities for all farms types across Wales to undertake actions which deliver environmental, economic and social outcomes alongside the sustainable production of food.

We understand this is a big change in the agriculture support system and alongside the positive environmental impacts there are potential economic impacts on farm businesses. These potential impacts may have consequential impacts on the rural economy and in turn the Welsh language.

To fully understand this impact we are undertaking a range of economic analyses on our proposals to understand the effects on different types of farm. The first phase of this work will be completed in 2022. This research will inform the design of the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme and mitigate negative impacts where possible.

In addition to the analysis outlined above, we are in the process of designing additional research to explore the wider effects of the scheme on rural communities and any wider impacts on the Welsh language.

The future scheme must work for farmers if it is to achieve our ambitions. We have just opened registration for a further phase of co-design with the industry which will allow all types of farm, and farmer, to help shape our proposals and ensure they are fit for purpose.

As a part of this work we will engage all our key stakeholders including the Welsh Language Commissioner on the proposals in the outline scheme we intend to publish in the summer.

The economic analysis and co-design process will feed into the final integrated impact assessments will consider the effect of our proposals across the rural sector, including on the Welsh language and our Welsh speaking communities. These will be published alongside the consultation on final scheme proposals in 2023.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd