

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion
Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: HID/PO/109/24

Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

14 May 2024

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April and for your kind words of congratulations.

I note with interest the Committee's one-day inquiry in to Farming Connect in February. The Welsh Government supports farmers with advice, guidance, training and grants. Farming Connect is our principal mechanism for delivering learning and development and knowledge sharing. As you know, the existing Farming Connect contract runs until 31 March 2025. Our future offering after that time may retain the Farming Connect brand, or it may not. However, I will ensure it is fit for purpose and provides the same high quality support for farmers, responding to the objectives of the Agriculture (Wales) Act and the introduction of the Sustainable Farming Scheme as we transition away from the Basic Payment Scheme. Our support for farmers will continue to be available to all farmers, regardless of whether they apply for the Sustainable Farming Scheme or not. I look forward to reading the report once available.

I am eager to work positively with the Committee and engaging in your important work in future, including my meeting with you in June where we can discuss the breadth of my portfolio and the session specifically discussing the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
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Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs

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

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