

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion
Gwledig**

**Economy, Trade, and
Rural Affairs
Committee**

**Pwyllgor Newid
Hinsawdd, yr
Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

**Climate Change,
Environment, and
Infrastructure Committee**

Senedd Cymru

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Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS
Llywydd, and Chair of the Business Committee

19 September 2024

Dear Llywydd,

Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee and Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee Joint Debate: Proposals for a sustainable farming scheme

As you may be aware, last term the [Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee](#) and the [Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee](#) both published reports on the Welsh Government's proposal for a Sustainable Farming Scheme. The ETRA Committee also published a report on [Farming Connect](#).

Our Committees have been working closely to ensure the development of the Sustainable Farming Scheme is given adequate scrutiny and to reduce any possible duplication of effort for Members and our stakeholders. This builds on joint working the Committee undertook to scrutinise the development of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023.

To foster a well-rounded debate on the two Committee reports on the Sustainable Farming Scheme, and to continue our efforts to reduce duplication for Members and stakeholders, we are writing to propose Business Committee considers allowing a joint Committee debate on both Reports.

We also propose that the ETRA Committee's Farming Connect report is also considered as part of this debate. This is because Farming Connect, or its replacement, will play a key role in supporting farmers and land managers to understand and adapt to the Sustainable Farming Scheme.



**Senedd Cymru
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We anticipate this approach will require some minor changes to the usual process around a Committee debate, namely:

- The motion for the debate would be that the Senedd notes all three reports;
- The title of the debate would be "Joint debate on Committee reports regarding the Sustainable Farming Scheme and Farming Connect";
- The Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, Paul Davies MS, would open and respond to the debate; and
- The Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, Llyr Gruffydd MS, would be called to speak immediately after Paul Davies MS has opened the debate.

We hope that this approach will be time efficient for the Senedd as whole. However, in light of the slightly different approach to this debate we ask that you give consideration to the following:

- Giving the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee additional time to speak in recognition that he will be introducing a report;
- Giving the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs additional time to speak, in recognition that he will be responding to three reports; and
- Within reason, giving all Members of the Senedd who wish to speak during the debate the opportunity to do so.

We do not believe it would be necessary to make any other significant changes to normal procedure for Senedd debates on Committee reports. We anticipate that this debate would require an hour.

We hope you are able to respond favourably to this request. We believe this approach will support better scrutiny by allowing Members to debate the matters contained in the reports together and so look at all the issues in the round. We also believe it will be the most time efficient way to examine these reports for Members, the Government, stakeholders and any other interested parties.

We have copied this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs.

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade and Rural
Affairs Committee



Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment,
and Infrastructure Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

CC: Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs