

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1332
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/00675/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 April 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2025 with regards to the Petition P-06-1332 'Fund vaccine research to protect red squirrels from deadly Squirrelpox virus'.

In your letter, you asked for information on the following points on behalf of the petitioner:

1. Much more detail on what is "currently and vaguely" described as a 'shortly' timeline.
2. To clarify whether the tendering process will be open to any party to express an interest or if it will be invitation only in which case how are invitees selected?
3. To explain why to date no officials have contacted the Wildlife Ark Trust which own the intellectual rights to the earlier attenuated pox vaccine research 2012/13.

In response to point 1:

Procurement is a complex process. This is to ensure due diligence is followed and public funds are allocated correctly. My officials are working on procuring a suitable supplier as soon as possible.

In response to point 2:

The tender will follow Welsh Government's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) process. As such, expression of interest will be sought from suppliers registered on [Sell2Wales](#). Invitees are selected based on their portfolio and nature of their services, and to ensure independent and objective review.

In response to point 3:

The aim of the feasibility study is to independently and objectively assess the prospect of research, manufacture, marketing authorisation, and deployment of the vaccine, as well as associated risks, benefits, and costs. It will be up to the appointed supplier to decide whom to contact in the course of the study.

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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.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this important topic. I hope this information is helpful to you or goes some way in answering your query.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

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