

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

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/1104/25

Llŷr Gruffydd MS  
Chair  
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

30 April 2025

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 April regarding the Committee's approach to consideration of the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill.

I appreciate the heavy legislative workload that the Committee has currently, having to scrutinise the Disused Mine and Quarry Tips (Wales) Bill and the Bus Services (Wales) Bill concurrently, with a third Bill due shortly. The Counsel General and Minister for Delivery confirmed our intention to make full use of the available time to introduce new legislation this Senedd term, by bringing forward a number of Bills in the final year of the Senedd during the annual Legislative Statement. As such, I am keen to work with the Committee to ensure that you are able to support the proposed timetable for the Environment (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) (Wales) Bill as a delay risks a scenario where a bottleneck of multiple Bills will reach the final stages in close proximity to one another at the end of the Senedd term.

I have attached an in confidence bilingual copy of the draft Bill and an English only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum to provide Committee members with an opportunity to see the proposed scope and direction of the Bill before its formal introduction. Please note that this is not a final version, and that it is possible that there could be changes as required by the Determination process before it is introduced to the Senedd. I hope that this will allow a meaningful discussion on the proposed timetable with the Business Committee, reflecting the size, scope and complexity of the legislation.

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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.

I would also be happy to share an in confidence bilingual copy of the draft Bill and an English only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum with key stakeholders – with appropriate caveats and rationale for sharing the documents with them – in order to give them the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill to inform their oral and written evidence. I would be pleased to work with the Committee to agree which organisations should be provided with advanced sight of the documents.

As noted in your letter, these are exceptional circumstances which require a creative approach, and we would not want this to set a precedent.

Your sincerely,

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

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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