



Y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Alun Davies AM
Minister for Natural Resources and
Food
Welsh Government

3 June 2014

Annwyl Alun

Biodiversity

On 21 May, we held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders to explore progress made in Wales towards the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity targets and actions taken since the publication of the State of Nature Report in May 2013.

1.2 Stakeholders made the point to us that there is a need for high-level biodiversity objectives and for there to be a set of clear actions established for their delivery. They were of the view that they are unable to focus their efforts in contributing toward meeting the 2020 biodiversity targets in the absence of such plans.

1.3 We are hopeful that the Nature Recovery Plan will provide this direction, though we heard differing accounts of the purpose of this plan. To aid our consideration, can you confirm:

- The timetable for publishing the Nature Recovery Plan and whether it will set out high-level objectives; provide an action plan for delivery; or both;

- Whether or not you will be presenting a final plan before the summer recess, or launching a consultation on a plan; and
- How this plan will fit into the proposed Natural Resources Policy and local area-based natural resource plans to be established by the Environment Bill.

1.4 There appears to be some question over who is leading on the creation of a data hub. When you appeared before us on 1 May to discuss Sustainable Land Management, you stated that Natural Resources Wales were taking the lead on creating a data hub and that they were adequately resourced to deliver this ([see paragraphs 16–18 of the transcript](#)). At our session on 21 May, an NRW director stated that, whilst NRW would contribute to a data hub, this was being led by the Welsh Government. Can you please confirm:

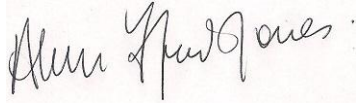
- That NRW are the lead organisation with regards to the data hub project; and
- That you remain satisfied that they are adequately resourced to take this lead role.

1.5 As a member of our predecessor committee in the Third Assembly, you will recall that it issued a report on biodiversity in early 2011. One of the recommendations that was accepted by the, then, Welsh Government related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity throughout all Welsh Government departments and agencies. In responding to the recommendation, the Welsh Government committed to:

‘[...] undertaking an audit of all Government Departments and agencies to identify current action for biodiversity and will assess this activity for its ecological effectiveness against the principles set out in A Living Wales. A progress report will be provided to the Wales Biodiversity Conference in September 2011 prior to formal publication.’

1.6 We are not aware of this audit report being published and ask that you provide us with an update on the findings of this report and progress that has been made since the audit in 2011.

Yn gywir,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Alun Ffred Jones".

Alun Ffred Jones AM

Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee