

Jane Davidson AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynaliadwyedd a Thai
Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ourref LF/JD/0061/09

Mick Bates AM
Chair, Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 July 2009

Dear Mick,

On 24 June 2009 I attended the meeting of the Sustainability Committee and presented a paper on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. As you are aware, that Bill is currently out for consultation.

Since my attendance at Committee the UK Government has announced their draft legislative programme for the fifth session of Parliament, which starts in November 2009. That draft programme, which is available on the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons' website (www.commonleader.gov.uk) includes provision for a Flood and Water Management Bill which will include provisions on:

- roles and responsibilities for flood and coastal erosion risk management;
- allocating the lead for local flood risk to local authorities;
- requiring all operating authorities to cooperate and share information;
- introducing a risk based approach to reservoir safety;
- requiring the use of sustainable drainage in new developments;
- restricting non-essential domestic water use during droughts; and
- protecting consumer interests in the event of water companies becoming insolvent.

This list does not reflect the full content of the draft Flood and Water Management Bill we discussed in June 2009. The fifth session of Parliament will be shorter than previous sessions in consequence of the need to hold a General Election next year. Accordingly, there is insufficient time for a final Bill incorporating all of the matters addressed within the draft Flood and Water Management Bill to be taken forward.

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The UK Government have stated within the programme that they intend to make changes in respect of the other flood and water areas as and when Parliamentary time allows. I am in discussion with them about how this can best be achieved.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jane Davidson', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Davidson AM

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