

# Agenda – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee room 5 – Tŷ Hywel  
and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 16 October 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

**Robert Donovan**

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales)

## Hybrid

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### Private pre-meeting

(09.15–09.30)

### Public meeting

(09.30–11.35)

#### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

#### 2 Papers to note

(09.30)

##### 2.1 Green economy

(Pages 1 – 6)

Attached Documents:

Response letter from the Minister of State for Industry, UK Government – 4  
September 2024

Response letter from The Crown Estate – 11 September 2024



## **2.2 VZTA Smart Towns**

(Pages 7 – 8)

Attached Documents:

Response letter from the Chair to the Chief Executive Officer, Near Me Now Ltd – 16 September 2024

## **2.3 The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024**

(Page 9)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 17 September 2024

## **2.4 Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Period) and Plant Health (Frequency of Checks) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024**

(Pages 10 – 12)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 24 September 2024

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 9 October 2024

## **2.5 Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

(Pages 13 – 14)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee – 26 September 2024

## **2.6 Welsh Government's international strategy and Cardiff Airport**

(Pages 15 – 18)

Attached Documents:

Response letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee– 2 October 2024

## **2.7 The Foundational Economy inquiry: Oral evidence session follow-up**

(Pages 19 – 21)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair to Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog – 3 October 2024

Letter from the Chair to Preston City Council – 3 October 2024

## **2.8 Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)**

(Pages 22 – 23)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 7 October 2024

## **2.9 Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) report 'Housebuilding Market in Great Britain'**

(Pages 24 – 30)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government – 7 October 2024

Letter from the former Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning to the Chief Executive, Competition and Markets Authority – 10 July 2024

## **2.10 Animal health and welfare – Use of Raised Laying Units for pheasants and partridges by the game sector in Wales**

(Pages 31 – 32)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Game Farmers' Association and other Aim to Sustain partners  
– 7 October 2024

## **2.11 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Inaugural meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions**

(Page 33)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the First Minister of Wales to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee – 10 October 2024

## **3 Foundational Economy: Panel 3 – Food sector**

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 34 – 50)

Robbie Davison, Director, Can Cook/Well-Fed

Professor Kevin Morgan, Professor of Governance and Development, Cardiff University

Edward Morgan, Group Environmental, Social and Governance Manager, Castell Howell

Katie Palmer, Programme Manager, Food Sense Wales

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Evidence paper – Well-Fed

## **Break**

(10.30–10.35)

## **4 Foundational Economy: Panel 4 – Housing and decarbonisation**

(10.35–11.35)

(Pages 51 – 58)

Iwan Trefor Jones, Chief Executive, Adra

Professor Joanne Patterson, Director of Research, Welsh School of  
Architecture, Cardiff University

Anthony Rees, Regional Manager, Cyfle Building Skills

Gary Newman, Chief Executive, Woodknowledge Wales

Attached Documents:

Evidence paper – Adra

## **5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

(11.35)

## **Private meeting**

(11.35–12.10)

## **6 Foundational Economy: Consideration of evidence**

(11.35–11.45)

## **7 Legislative Consent: Product Regulation and Metrology Bill**

(11:45–11:55)

(Pages 59 – 77)

[Legislative Consent: Product Regulation and Metrology Bill](#)

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Legal advice note

## **8 Border Target Operating Model: Consideration of draft report**

(11:55–12:05)

(Pages 78 – 101)

Attached Documents:

Border Target Operating Model draft report

## **9 Forward Work Programme: consideration of scoping paper on AI and the Welsh economy**

(12:05–12:10)

(Pages 102 – 109)

Attached Documents:

AI scoping paper



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero



Agenda Item 2.1  
Department for  
Business & Trade

Paul Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

**Sarah Jones MP**

Minister of State  
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero and  
the Department for Business and Trade

55 Whitehall London SW1A 2HP  
Old Admiralty Building  
Admiralty Place  
SW1A 2DY

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Our ref: MCB2024/13073

4 September 2024

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August regarding the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's inquiry into the green economy. I am responding on behalf of the Secretaries of State for Business and Trade, and Energy Security and Net Zero.

Working with The Welsh Government

The Government is resetting its approach to working with the devolved nations, understanding that meaningful cooperation centred on respect will be key to delivering change across our United Kingdom. The challenges ahead, to achieve our shared net zero targets, to have greater control over our own energy resources, and to ensure stable energy bills, are shared across the four nations. We are committed to working together towards solutions that benefit every corner of the United Kingdom.

On Great British Energy, we will work collaboratively with Devolved Governments in the design, development and implementation of Great British Energy. Government recognises and supports the work of the Welsh Government in establishing Ynni Cymru and Trydan Gwydd Cymru. We believe that Great British Energy's functions will be complementary to these activities, and we look forward to learning from each other's expertise and experience.

The Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme (FLOWMIS) will provide up to £160m in grant funding to support the development of port facilities for large-scale floating offshore wind deployment. Port Talbot is one of two projects being taken forward for detailed due diligence, subsidy control assessment and negotiation of grant terms. Subject to due diligence, we hope to make final grant offers later this year.

The new National Wealth Fund (NWF) will catalyse private investment in support of the Government's objectives for investment growth and net zero, while generating a return for the taxpayer. It will play a pivotal role in the government's industrial strategy and will simplify the UK's fragmented landscape of support for businesses and investors, aligning critical institutions like the UK Infrastructure Bank and British Business Bank to create a single coherent offer for businesses and a compelling proposition for investors. To ensure investments can start immediately, NWF will deploy funding through the UK Infrastructure

Bank, expanding its remit and providing an additional £7.3 billion to catalyse private investment at an even greater scale.

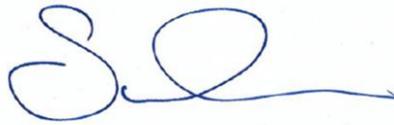
The Government is committed to the steel sector, and to making available £2.5bn of support, on top of the £500m already earmarked for Tata Steel at Port Talbot Steelworks. The workforce and wider community at Port Talbot remains a priority for this Government.

Chaired by the Secretary of State for Wales, the Transition Board has re-shifted to become delivery focused to drive forward tangible solutions for impacted workers and the local area. On 15 August, it was announced that £13.5m funding had been released to support supply chain resilience, diversification and growth of impacted businesses.

### Impact on Wales

We already see the diversity and depth of energy projects across the UK, including hydropower projects in Wales. Great British Energy will accelerate billions in investment in renewable energy projects up and down the country so that the benefits of clean energy deployment, job creation and energy independence are felt in every corner of the UK. This means creating jobs and building supply chains across our four Nations, whilst respecting the devolution settlements. Furthermore, the success of Great British Energy's clean energy production will benefit billpayers, taxpayers and communities across the country.

Very best wishes,



**SARAH JONES MP**  
Minister of State for Industry

11 September 2024

Dear Paul Davies MS,

## 1 Summary

The Crown Estate welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee's inquiry on the green economy. We recognise that as we develop our thinking, opportunities will arise to work in partnership with Welsh Government to achieve common goals, such as enhanced energy security and delivering new jobs, skills and investment. We look forward to collaborating on these issues and to sharing relevant information and best practice.

## 2 The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate is set up by an Act of Parliament, and occupies a space between public and private sectors. We act independently to grow the environmental, social, and financial value of our portfolio; a trusted delivery partner to create long-term value through these assets for future generations. Through our strategy, and in line with our statutory purpose, we aim to address needs where we are best placed to draw on our unique combination of strengths to support economic growth and equality of outcomes. Our focus is on supporting the journey towards a net zero carbon and energy-secure future, creating inclusive communities and making a positive contribution in stewarding the natural environment and reversing biodiversity loss.

In Wales, our interests include renewable energy – our most significant activity – and other marine sectors, such as marine aggregates extraction, telecommunications, power cables, and nature recovery projects. We also manage part of the foreshore and tidal riverbed, which includes much of the intertidal between mean high water and mean low water at important ports. Inland, we are stewards of common land, which is primarily rough pasture for grazing. For more information about our activities in Wales, please see our Wales Review attached which is produced alongside our Annual Report.

## 3 Our response

### Celtic Sea Leasing Round 5

As manager of the seabed, we have worked with industry and stakeholders to unlock its potential to support the transition to a resilient, sustainable and decarbonised future. A key part of this is making the seabed available for the development of offshore wind, in support of the UK's Net Zero targets and a cleaner energy future. Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5 seeks to establish a new and innovative floating wind sector in the Celtic Sea. It is expected to be the first phase of commercial

development in the Celtic Sea, bringing an exciting opportunity to create up to 4.5GW of new renewable energy capacity enough to power over 4m homes, while acting as a springboard for social, economic and environmental opportunities. This leasing process is currently live and will run until Summer 2025, when successful bidders are expected to enter into agreements with The Crown Estate to develop the sites.

The Crown Estate leasing creates a significant opportunity for the people in the communities around the Celtic Sea to benefit from the new skills and jobs which will be required to build the new wind farms and to support their ongoing operation and maintenance. Earlier this year, we published research which showed that the Celtic Sea Leasing Round 5 could create up to 5,300 jobs during the construction phase, and deliver £1.4 billion of economic benefits to the UK.<sup>1</sup> Last year, The Crown Estate responded to Welsh Government's Call for Evidence on Net Zero Sector Skills, highlighting the skills and training gap exists between the current workforce and the expertise needed to ensure the transition to a net zero and achieve the scale of change needed to deliver the above opportunity and achieving a sustainable future in Wales. We look forward to working with Welsh Government on the actions needed to close those gaps identified.

Through the development of Leasing Round 5, we believe that the inclusion of commitments to deliver social and environmental value as part of the development of their new windfarms represents new commitments on developers to deliver for communities. This might include measures like new training or apprenticeship schemes, nature restoration projects or community initiatives. We continue to work hard with local authorities and governments, as well as the offshore wind industry and organisations such as National Grid ESO, to ensure the UK's offshore wind market remains as attractive as possible for investors.

While the Leasing Round in the Celtic Sea catalysis the transition to green energy, optimizing the benefit for the communities and economy requires us to work together in a coordinated way and we look forward to continuing to contribute in the coming months. For more information our commitments to social value in Celtic Sea Leasing Round 5, please see the Information Memorandum.<sup>2</sup>

#### The Crown Estate Bill and Great British Energy Partnership

In July, the UK Government set out further details of Great British Energy, including a new partnership with The Crown Estate to support the accelerated delivery of clean energy infrastructure, benefiting millions of homes and businesses across the country. The partnership will bring together Great British Energy's ability to invest and critical strategic industrial policy, with our

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv65su7t80y5/nDXSS9l3qvtscyxa1rlwq/ded23422bbc04bf6a8753cc3623f0016/Celtic\\_Seas\\_Blueprint\\_final\\_report\\_Feb2024.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/nv65su7t80y5/nDXSS9l3qvtscyxa1rlwq/ded23422bbc04bf6a8753cc3623f0016/Celtic_Seas_Blueprint_final_report_Feb2024.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://downloads.ctfassets.net/nv65su7t80y5/5zR4gHuqxjMG9NOK1LI2Av/643bfa91696be32408e5e2646c16bbba/Information\\_Memorandum.pdf](https://downloads.ctfassets.net/nv65su7t80y5/5zR4gHuqxjMG9NOK1LI2Av/643bfa91696be32408e5e2646c16bbba/Information_Memorandum.pdf)

long-established expertise in bringing forward the UK's world leading offshore wind sector. This partnership will be supported by new legislation recently introduced into UK Parliament which is intended to give The Crown Estate new investment and borrowing powers, enabling it to play a greater role in supporting offshore wind and other emerging offshore renewable technologies. This includes the establishment of the UK's floating wind sector and associated supply chain.

### Supply Chain Accelerator

Earlier this year, The Crown Estate established a £50million Supply Chain Accelerator (SCA) to catalyse early-stage investment in the offshore wind supply chain. to develop early phase investment in projects focused on growing sustainable industrial capability – helping reduce risk and accelerate activity. The initial £10 million pilot fund supports supply chain for the Celtic Sea Leasing Round 5. In response to the opportunities identified in the Celtic Sea Supply Chain Blueprint, a further £40 million is earmarked aligned to the Industrial Growth Plan. Through the SCA and other investments, we can help derisk the build-out of floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea and create greater confidence for investors. We look forward to making further announcements on the supply chain accelerator later this year.

### Marine Delivery Routemap

In early September, The Crown Estate published a bold approach to drive energy transition and nature recovery through the sea bed. We have been working with stakeholders to develop initial plans for a ground-breaking Marine Delivery Routemap and through working with others, to create a holistic and long-term view of how the seabed is used, The Crown Estate hopes to achieve a number of important benefits, including:

- Providing visibility and certainty for developers across a wide range of sectors, helping boost market confidence and attract international investment;
- Identify new areas for biodiversity and nature restoration;  
Accelerate the delivery of offshore renewables, helping address current pinch-points such as consenting and grid connections; and  
Support the economic development and prosperity of onshore communities, by enabling a long-term view of the investment needed for key enablers like skills, ports and supply-chain.<sup>3</sup>

In developing the Marine Delivery Routemap, The Crown Estate is working with partners, including Welsh Government, to enable the seabed to support the growth of key industries alongside the creation of thriving biodiversity and marine environments working with partners to produce a series of sector-specific updates, looking at how they can evolve over the years ahead. This begins with offshore wind and a consultation published today alongside the Routemap.

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<sup>3</sup> [1725984858-tce\\_marine\\_delivery\\_routemap.pdf \(datocms-assets.com\)](https://www.datocms-assets.com/1725984858-tce_marine_delivery_routemap.pdf)

The Crown Estate has published its thinking on the Future of Offshore Wind on behalf of the Great British Energy: The Crown Estate partnership<sup>4</sup>. This report sets out its approach to leasing this additional capacity for delivery out to 2040 in support of the UK's net zero and energy security ambitions. It is seeking input and feedback from industry and wider stakeholders to help shape its approach to seabed leasing. Much of the new offshore wind capacity is expected to be in areas of the Celtic Sea, which lies off the coasts of South Wales and South West England, and North East England. A number of smaller projects are also likely off the coasts of North Wales, North West England, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The precise approach to development remains under consideration but is expected to include a mix of fixed and floating foundations. The Future of Offshore Wind report also set out proposals to further de-risk the opportunity for developers and accelerate the deployment of new windfarms.

#### Concluding remarks

We welcome the Committee's focus on the green economy and the important opportunity that it presents for Wales. We will continue to work alongside Welsh Government and wider stakeholders to discuss how our work can support the green economy and mitigate barriers Wales currently faces and look forward to supporting the Committee in its work.

All of this response may be put into the public domain and there is no part of it that should be treated as confidential.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Williams,

Cyfarwyddwr Cymru/ Director Wales

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.datocms-assets.com/136653/1725984848-tce\\_future-offshore-wind.pdf](https://www.datocms-assets.com/136653/1725984848-tce_future-offshore-wind.pdf)

Victoria Mann  
Chief Executive Officer  
Near Me Now Ltd

16 September 2024

Dear Victoria,

### **VZTA Smart Towns**

Thank you for your letter, I am sorry to hear about your experience with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. I have circulated your letter to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee Members and also the Senedd's researchers who support our work.

The Committee has a very wide remit and a busy work programme planned for the next two terms so, unfortunately we are unable to take forwards direct work on the legislation to support private sector businesses engaged by Welsh public bodies that you have proposed at this point.

However, I would like to reassure you that the Committee recognises the importance of small businesses in Wales and the role they play as the backbone to our economy. We will continue to scrutinise policies that affect and impact small businesses and will bare your experience in mind whilst undertaking our work.

In my experience work to propose specific legislation such as this would best be taken forwards by one of your Senedd Members directly – possibly via the Members Bill route. If you have not already, I would recommend contacting your Members of the Senedd.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'D'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



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

Agenda Item 2.3  


Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/5128/24

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament

17 September 2024

Dear Paul,

I am writing further to my letter of 21 May where I informed you of my intention to consent to the UK Government making The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024 ("the Regulations").

I have now given my consent to the UK Government to make the Regulations. I have issued a Written Statement which can be found at: [Written Statement: The Animal Welfare \(Livestock Exports\) Enforcement Regulations 2024 \(16 September 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)

The Regulations supplement the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024 by establishing enforcement powers, offences, and penalties relating to the prohibition on the export of relevant livestock for slaughter. The Regulations were laid before the UK Parliament, using the draft affirmative procedure, on 12 September and are scheduled to come into force on 1 January 2025.

I am copying this letter to Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,



**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

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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[Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales)

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.



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/10102/24

Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament

24 September 2024

Dear Paul,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Period) and Plant Health (Frequency of Checks) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024 (“the 2024 Regulations”).

We have received a letter from Baroness Sue Hayman the Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health, and Welfare, asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulations will extend to England, Scotland, and Wales and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish Ministers.

The Regulations will be made in exercise of the powers conferred under:

- Article 144(6) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3(2) of Annex 6 to, Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (‘the OCR’).

The purpose of 2024 Regulation is to extend the implementation period of import checks on certain sanitary and phytosanitary (‘SPS’) goods entering Great Britain (‘GB’) from certain countries, until 1 July 2025.

In addition, this instrument extends an easement which delays the requirement for import checks (that applies to rest of the world countries) in respect of plants, plant products, and other objects (such as machinery and vehicles which have been used for agricultural or forestry purposes) entering Great Britain from the EU, Liechtenstein and Switzerland through a West Coast Port (as listed in the definition of ‘relevant port’ in paragraph 2 of Annex 6 to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (‘the Official Controls Regulation’), before 1 July 2025. The instrument also adds Swansea Port to the list of West Coast Ports (contained in the aforementioned definition of ‘relevant port’).

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

Finally, the instrument extends an easement which delays the requirement for import checks (that applies to rest of the world countries) in respect of certain fruit and vegetables as set out in Schedule 2A of the Plant Health (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 imported from the EU, Liechtenstein or Switzerland before 1 July 2025.

The Regulations do not commit Welsh Ministers to adopting any future UK Government position on biosecurity. The Regulations do not diminish or undermine the powers of Welsh Ministers in any way.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for this instrument to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter. I consider that legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

I have written similarly to Mike Hedges MS, the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

**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

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: HID/CC/MA/10102/24

Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

9 October 2024

Dear Paul,

Further to my letter of 24 September 2024. I am writing to inform the Committee that I have given my consent to the Minister of State to lay the Official Controls (Extension of Transitional Period) and Plant Health (Frequency of Checks) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2024 in relation to Wales. I have laid a Written Statement which can be found [here](#).

Consent has been given for the UK Government to make these Regulations to avoid a gap between easements ending, and new policies coming into effect. This ensures that certain EU SPS goods are not subject to default official controls from 31 January 2025. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Statutory Instrument (SI) is subject to the negative procedure and was laid before Parliament on 8 October 2024.

I am writing in similar terms to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**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

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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

Ein cyf/Our ref: HIDCC/PO/0254/24

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

26 September 2024

Dear Mike,

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I wanted to report on the latest meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 16 September 2024 which I attended.

The meeting was chaired by Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The meeting was also attended by Mary Creagh MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Nature), Baroness Hayman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, and Andrew Muir MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

I have issued a Written Ministerial Statement summarising the discussions. The Group agreed to establish stronger intergovernmental relations based on the principles of honesty, trust and respect and, in this context, we agreed new and ambitious Terms of Reference. These will be published on the UK Government website and I will provide you with a link to these in due course.

We agreed a schedule of meetings for 2024 and 2025 to facilitate engagement and oversee several areas of enhanced collaboration.

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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.

The next meeting will take place 18 November.

I have also copied this letter to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

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'.

**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

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair – Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations  
Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

2 October 2024

Dear Delyth,

## **INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND CARDIFF AIRPORT**

Thank you for your letter of 20 August to the First Minister and the then Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Transport and North Wales regarding the Welsh Government's international strategy and Cardiff Airport. I am responding to you as I am now the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Cardiff Airport.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in replying, which is related to the need to formally confirm new Ministerial portfolios to the Senedd prior to communicating in my new capacity.

As you know, on 22 July, the then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Transport and North Wales issued a statement which set out our proposed future strategy for Cardiff Airport. The statement can be found here: [Written Statement: Cardiff Wales Airport – long term strategy \(22 July 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Following the Statement, the Welsh Government submitted its referral to the Subsidy Advice Unit (SAU), part of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) on 15 August 2024. The SAU acknowledged receipt of our submission is currently preparing its report which will be published this week on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The approach set out, using subsidy investment to maximise Cardiff Airport's economic potential, is our current preferred option for supporting the Airport in the long term.

Once we have received the CMA's report, I will deliberate on its findings with Ministerial colleagues prior to a final decision on the future subsidy package. Once we have made a final decision on what form any investment package should take, I will update the Senedd

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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.

accordingly. The CMA referral process will not conclude formally until the Welsh Government has published its final subsidy proposal on the relevant transparency database and subsequent 30-day window for any potential challenge has closed. With the formal process still underway, I am limited in what I can say about the final shape of any investment into the Airport.

I have set out below what I can say at this time in relation to your questions. I must also point out that should the Welsh Government proceed with the subsidy investment as planned, much of the detail behind the strategy will be of a commercially confidential nature and will remain so even after the CMA process has concluded. To release such information would place Cardiff Airport at a very significant disadvantage when negotiating for potential new business. It may also expose the commercial positions of businesses linked to the Airport.

As set out in the Written Statement, the strategy aims to build on the Airport's unique strengths with two main objectives:

- attracting and growing aviation and aerospace businesses linked to the Airport
- a targeted programme of air service development, with a focus on passenger connectivity to a small number of global air hubs and economic centres of importance to Wales

Maximising the economic benefits that Cardiff Airport can bring to Wales has been at the heart of our proposed strategy for the future of the Airport. It is an economic subsidy that sees the Airport as a catalyst for generating new jobs and increasing economic activity in its hinterland, as part of the aerospace cluster. Whilst we envisage a growth in direct employment and GVA contribution from the Airport itself, we also expect significant benefits for the wider related economy, for example at the nearby Bro Tathan business park. The Welsh Government International Strategy references the South East Wales Aerospace and Defence Sector cluster as one of its Magnet Projects.

International connectivity is an integral element to enable future economic growth and as such, the core aims of the Welsh Government's International Strategy formed an important part of our thinking. In developing the proposed approach to supporting the Airport in the long term, my officials have worked closely with their colleagues from across the Welsh Government, including those in International Relations and Trade. The intentions around air route development are to improve connectivity to regions of economic importance to Wales, reflecting the regions of the world referenced in the International Strategy. This includes the Middle East & Asia, Europe, and North America/Canada. I am not in a position at this time to identify a specific routes or individual destinations as it will be for the Airport executive team, who are responsible for the commercial operation of the Airport and who lead on those commercial negotiations, to seek to secure the best possible arrangements with airlines that serve these regions. I have agreed that the Airport should consider a small number of targeted routes focused on attracting inbound tourism and foreign investment. If the Welsh Government's international priorities change, I am confident that Cardiff Airport will be required to flex its approach accordingly, so long as its activities remain within the parameters of the final subsidy package that emerges from the CMA referral process.

As outlined in the recent Written Statement, we have acknowledged the policy tensions between owning an airport, the significant economic benefits the Airport can deliver for Wales and our need to address the climate emergency. The proposed strategy for the Airport aims to

encourage the development and local adoption of more sustainable aircraft propulsion technologies and to reduce carbon emissions from the Airport's infrastructure.

I would like to take this opportunity to address a misunderstanding regarding a claim that the Airport has missed a net zero target. Under the terms of the Rescue and Restructure grant, the Airport was required to provide a commitment by 31 March 2023 to becoming carbon neutral, which it has done. The target was not to achieve carbon neutrality by 2023.

Cardiff Airport is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and I am pleased to advise the Committee that the Airport has reduced carbon emissions from its ground operations by over 60% in the last four years, from 1,700 tonnes to under 600 tonnes of CO2 annually, with an aim to reduce this by a further 50% over the next five years. The Airport has also recently announced that it has added six new electric powered vehicles to its operational fleet which will be used across Cardiff Airport and St Athan Aerodrome by the car parks, security, airfield operations and bird control teams.

As specific examples of achievements in this area, the Airport has:

- Switched to entirely renewable and clean electricity sources;
- Had a heavy focus on recycling and is zero waste-to-landfill;
- Reduced its natural gas consumption by 30%;
- Replaced assets with modern and more energy efficient technology;
- Restricted ground running of engines during anti-social hours;
- Employed continuous descent operations for aircraft on approach, promoting noise abatement;
- Encouraged twin engine aircraft to taxi with one engine;
- Introduced a replacement programme of LED lighting; and
- Continued to reduce plastic consumption with its partners.

The proposed long-term strategy will enable the Airport to continue on its path to net zero. The Airport is working on updating its Environmental Flight Path which it will publish once the future route to funding has been confirmed following completion of the CMA process.

On the subject of Qatar Airways, the Airport executive team is leading on the commercial negotiations with the airline regarding the resumption of the Doha service. It would not be appropriate for me to comment further while those negotiations are still underway, other than to say that I would very much welcome the resumption of the route when the time is right for both the Airport and the operator.

Cardiff Airport is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Welsh Government, operated at an arms-length as a private limited company. It operates in an independent and commercial manner and is liable for its own actions and any issues arising from the running of its business. Ministers do not intervene in the Airport's day-to-day commercial operating matters. It will therefore be for the Airport executive team, with appropriate scrutiny from WGC Holdco Ltd, to decide how, on a commercial basis, they deliver on the Welsh Government's strategy. It is my intention that Holdco will play a more prominent role in the governance, challenge and scrutiny of the Airport going forward. Once the future strategy has been confirmed I will ensure that appropriate success metrics and governance arrangements are put in place to monitor the Airport's performance against its economic objectives.

With regard to budgets, decisions on annual allocations of funding to the Airport will be considered in context of the specific investment opportunities that have been secured by the Airport executive team and will be considered alongside other priorities for spending across the Welsh Government. Any expenditure on the Airport will of course be subject to the outcome of the CMA process.

I hope that the Committee finds the information within this letter of help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

**CC:** First Minister of Wales;  
Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee;  
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee; and  
Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Ceri Cunningham  
Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog

3 October 2024

Dear Ceri,

**Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: Foundational Economy inquiry**

Thank you for joining our meeting on 18 September to provide evidence as part of our inquiry into the Foundational Economy.

Following the session, we agreed to write to request further information in relation to points we were unable to cover during the meeting due to time constraints. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the following:

- Based on your experience, how successful has the Welsh Government been at developing and delivering foundational economy policy? Please could you set out the reasons for this view?
- How have you evaluated the impact of your initiatives, and how has this helped you to address any issues that have arisen?
- In terms of procurement, are you able to provide any insight as to specifically how is food procured in your area, for example for care homes and schools?

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'D'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



Councillor Matthew Brown  
Leader, Preston City Council

3 October 2024

Dear Matthew

**Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: Foundational Economy inquiry**

Thank you for joining our meeting on 18 September to provide evidence as part of our inquiry into the Foundational Economy.

Following the session, we agreed to write to request further information in relation to points we were unable to cover during the meeting due to time constraints. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the following:

- How have you evaluated the impact of your initiatives, and how has this helped you to address any issues that have arisen?
- In terms of procurement, specifically how is food procured in your area, for example for care homes and schools?

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul Davies MS**  
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Agenda Item 2.8

Huw Irranca-Davies MS/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

Paul Davies, MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament

Our Ref: MA/HIDCC/10210/24

7 October 2024

Dear Paul

The Welsh Government has been working with the other fisheries policy authorities (FPAs) across the UK to develop a consultation draft setting out proposed amendments to Annex A of the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS). The JFS was published on 23 November 2022, following a 12-week public consultation period and scrutiny by the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

The JFS sets out the policies of the FPAs for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the fisheries objectives in the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act). It includes how the FPAs propose to make use of Fisheries Management Plans (listed in Annex A to the JFS) to achieve, or contribute to the achievement of, those fisheries objectives.

The FPAs have agreed to amend Annex A of the JFS. The proposed amendments do not impact on the fisheries policies in the original JFS. Instead, they include extensions for the publication dates for many FMPs and changes to the scope and coverage of some of the FMPs. These amendments will enable the FPAs to produce high-quality, comprehensive and robust FMPs that will achieve the long-term aim of sustainably managed fisheries, in line with the fisheries objectives.

Of particular relevance to Wales are the proposals to extend the Welsh Whelk FMP by one year, and to remove Welsh Ministers as an authority responsible for preparing and publishing a number of the joint UK plans, which are being co-ordinated by the Scottish Ministers.

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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.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act requires each of the FPAs to lay a consultation draft before the appropriate legislature and to specify a period of scrutiny. Please be advised of my intention to lay the consultation draft before the Senedd with a scrutiny period of 10 October - 21 November 2024. Whilst we recognise this falls over recess dates for all UK legislatures, there will be a minimum of 4 weeks for all. The proposals will also be the subject of a public consultation within the same dates.

The purpose of this correspondence is to give the Committee advance notice of the scrutiny period and the public consultation on the consultation draft JFS amendments.

The FPAs are working to a timeline to publish the amended Annex A before the end of this year.

My officials will write to your committee clerk once I have laid the consultation draft, providing a link to the public consultation document. I would be grateful for any response/recommendations from the Committee to be provided by 29 November 2024.

I hope this information is helpful for you in managing your work programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

**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

# Agenda Item 2.9

Jayne Bryant MS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Tai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref PO/JB00272/24

Paul Davies MS  
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

7 October 2024

Dear Paul

In February, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) published its [Report on the Housebuilding Market in Great Britain](#). The headline finding from the CMA was that the complex and unpredictable planning system, together with the limitations of speculative private development, has been responsible for the persistent under delivery of new homes. The study also confirmed substantial concerns about estate management charges, with homeowners often facing high and unclear charges for the management of facilities such as roads, drainage, and green spaces, together with the poor quality of some new housing evidenced by the increasing number of snagging reports over the past ten years.

At the time of publication, the CMA also opened a new investigation into the suspected sharing of commercially sensitive information by housebuilders which could be influencing the build-out of sites and the prices of new homes. I welcome this investigation and look forward with interest to its findings.

In terms of the recommendations and options for government to consider as they apply to Wales, the Welsh Government has responded to the CMA thematically, accepting the recommendations. I have lodged the full Welsh Government response in the Senedd Library for members' information.

Some recommendations within the report will depend on action to be taken by the UK Government in collaboration with the devolved governments and I have discussed how these recommendations can be implemented with Ministers in the UK and Scottish Governments at the British Irish Council on 19 and 20 September. It is important that we work in collaboration with our partners to deliver a better deal for homebuyers.

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[Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jayne.Bryant@gov.Wales)

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Tai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

Julie James AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a Chynllunio  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/JJ/183/24

Sarah Cardell  
Chief Executive  
Competition and Markets Authority  
Housebuilding Market Study  
25 The Cabot  
Cabot Square  
London  
E14 4QZ

[housebuilding@cma.gov.uk](mailto:housebuilding@cma.gov.uk)  
cc Simon Harris, CMA Wales  
[simon.harris@cma.gov.uk](mailto:simon.harris@cma.gov.uk)

10 July 2024

Dear Sarah

Thank you for the work you and the team at the Competition and Markets Authority have undertaken to prepare and publish the study report into the housebuilding market in Britain. I welcome the announcement to open a new investigation into the suspected sharing of commercially sensitive information by housebuilders which could be influencing the build-out of sites and the prices of new homes.

In terms of the recommendations and options for government to consider as they apply to Wales, I am responding thematically as some will depend on action to be taken by the UK Government in collaboration with the devolved governments.

**Private management of public amenities on housing estates and preventing the proliferation of private management arrangements on new housing estates.**

I agree that the Welsh Government should consider implementing common adoptable standards for public amenities on new housing estates. Common standards may help local authorities and service providers adopt housing estates on their completion. Developing common adoptable standards would be a significant endeavor and will not be possible to implement in the short term. My ambition remains that local authorities should adopt public amenities. I do not agree that this should be a mandatory requirement. Local planning authorities are best placed to determine the appropriateness of adoption of public amenities on estates in their areas. I am working

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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.

**Back Page 26**  
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.

closely with our planning authorities to ensure a decision on whether amenities are to be adopted is taken much earlier in the planning process.

### **Providing greater protection to households living under private management arrangements**

I agree that the UK Government, in consultation with the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government should introduce enhanced consumer protection measures. These should be underpinned by a robust enforcement regime. The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act has introduced new rights to freeholders subject to estate management charges.

Although the aim of the new regime for freeholders is not specifically consumer protection, the Act will improve transparency and accountability for homeowners. The new arrangements when introduced will rely on the homeowner challenging unreasonable charges with the tribunal, but the existence of a method to seek legal remedy will encourage better performance on the part of estate managers.

Your report rightly focused on the significant imbalance of power between embedded private estate management companies and households. I am not convinced that this imbalance exists where a residents' management company of the relevant housing estate is written into the TP1/deeds. On this basis, the prohibition of new embedded management arrangements should not apply where the management company is constituted of the residents of the relevant estate. I agree that resident management committees could benefit from improved guidance, and I will be asking officials to prepare improved guidance in line with your recommendation on this point.

### **Quality of new homes produced, and service provided by housebuilders. Eliminating drip pricing and providing greater clarity to buyers regarding the true cost of their new home including pricing for optional extras.**

I agree with these recommendations. The New Homes Ombudsman (NHO) provisions within the Building Safety Act provide the opportunity for the UK Government to introduce the recommended changes. The Welsh Government is supportive of the NHO approach including a single mandatory consumer code. My expectation is for the proposals set out in recommendations 2.1 to 2.4 to be implemented through the work of the NHO.

### **Developing an independent single consumer satisfaction survey and publishing key quality metrics.**

I agree in principle with recommendations 2.5 and 2.6 of the report. An independent body to develop, maintain and undertake a single consumer satisfaction survey on the quality of new homes and the service provided by all housebuilders, and a requirement to participate in the survey to display their key quality metrics to consumers will be helpful reforms if implemented sensitively. Care will be needed to ensure a single customer review does not distort reported satisfaction levels for smaller developers who are building fewer homes than volume builders. House buyers will need to be encouraged to take part in a customer satisfaction regime irrespective of a positive or negative customer journey.

## Options for consideration

The first of the options for consideration suggest that the Welsh Government should consider options to support the adoption of public amenities on estates currently under private management arrangements.

If the proposed reforms set out in the report recommendations are adopted and implemented, the identified shortcomings being experienced by householders subject to estate management charges should be resolved. Should this not be the case, further action may be needed to adopt public amenities currently under private management arrangements.

The remaining ten options for consideration by government included in the report mainly relate to the planning system as it operates in England, and largely overlooks the planning reforms that have been adopted in Wales. Many of the options for consideration are being progressed in Wales.

Housing targets are embedded in the planning system through the integration with the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA). The LHMA provides information on housing needs to local levels covering the tenure and type of dwellings and numbers required. LHMA's are seminal sources of evidence for our Local Development Plans (LDP). Monitoring of progress towards delivery of the LDP is undertaken annually through an Annual Monitoring Report.

Effective monitoring and enforcement of local plans to encourage housebuilders to bring forward successful planning applications and build new houses is in place in Wales. Welsh Government has a dedicated development plans team whose role it is to support and monitor the production of LDPs. There is full LDP coverage across Wales and this provides a firm basis for the delivery of new homes. Our national development framework also provides a context for the delivery of affordable housing and the production of Strategic Development Plans. Through the Annual Monitoring Report process, local planning authorities monitor the delivery of housing which will inform plan review.

Planning can be a necessarily complex process which has to balance societal needs with other imperatives such as climate change and nature emergencies. Development of new houses on greenfield land in particular can have permanent and long term effects on the climate change and the environment which must be taken into account and mitigated before development takes place. Whilst the planning system must work efficiently and should not be the cause of unnecessary delays, there is no getting away from the scale of the issues the planning system has to address.

Having an adopted development plan is an important pre-requisite to allow local authorities to take timely decisions. LDPs need to be underpinned by robust evidence of viability of housing sites, including detailed site viability appraisals for key sites, and are required to have a trajectory of delivery over the plan period. Whilst it is important to ensure planning arrangements are kept under review and streamlined, they must remain effective to ensure societal imperatives are achieved.

I agree that clearly defining the planning statutory consultee process is important. Statutory consultees are set out in legislation as is the determination period for planning applications. There is a clear timescale for the determination of applications and statutory consultees are required to input within these timescales. Statutory consultees usually provide critical technical inputs into the determination process and their advice is essential for local planning authorities. The issue of delays during statutory consultation

is often the product of inadequately resourced statutory consultees rather than fault in the system.

Adequately resourcing the entire planning system, including statutory consultees, is a key challenge the Welsh Government will be addressing, but it is for local planning authorities to monitor performance against the arrangements in place. I have announced plans to increase resources within the planning system based on independent research presented to me. My intention is to implement an uplift in planning fees and a strategy to achieve full cost recovery for local authorities over a prescribed period. These fees will be retained for the exclusive purpose of providing planning services.

The requirements for outline planning applications are onerous because local planning authorities (LPA) need to fully understand the impacts of the proposed development. Work provided at the outline stage will not then need to be repeated at the reserved matters stage. The question arises where in the process the detailed considerations take place. If they are at the outline stage, the work will need not be undertaken later in the process.

I recognize the smaller and medium size housebuilding sector has been severely squeezed since the recession of 2008 and they now represent a diminishing part of the housebuilding output in Wales. Unlike volume house builders, smaller developers often lack the necessary resources and skills to engage effectively in the planning process. Their engagement in the plan making process is often negligible.

Nevertheless, Planning Policy Wales (PPW) requires LPAs to keep a list of small sites which might be attractive to the small and medium size developer sector. Furthermore, PPW suggests that LPAs consider breaking up large housing allocations into smaller lots which may prove to be more attractive offers to smaller developers. Additionally, further work has been undertaken in Wales to promote the custom and self-build sector to help diversify housing supply.

Finally, you have suggested LPAs could require greater diversity of housing tenure and housing type for larger sites and increase the number of homes that are delivered through smaller sites. In principle, I agree with these points.

The required housing tenure should be obtained as one of the outputs of the LHMA. This should then inform LDP policies and there is a legal requirement to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material circumstances indicate otherwise. As stated above, PPW already supports the subdivision of larger sites to allow greater choice, increase build out rates and allow the SME sector to compete with the volume housebuilders.

Smaller sites are often brownfield within urban areas. There are often constraints on development, such as the need for land remediation which impacts on the viability of any proposed development. Welsh Ministers are keen to develop fiscal tools to disincentivise retention of sites allocated for housing such as through the introduction of a vacant site levy.

Your report suggests that housebuilders build to meet demand and not need. Their business model is predicated upon local absorption rates to ensure profits remain high. It is the role of the planning system to address this by setting clear policies about the type of housing to be delivered. I am therefore keen develop further initiatives that seek to increase housebuilding based on need and not the maximization of profits for housebuilders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd

Cabinet Secretary Housing, Local Government and Planning



7 October 2024

Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF 99 1SN

Dear Members of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee,

We understand that a request has recently been made to the Committee to consider conducting an inquiry into the use of “cages” for pheasants and partridges by the game sector in Wales. Whilst the term is not explicitly defined in the request, we take this to reference the use of Raised Laying Units (RLUs). RLUs are a type of accommodation commonly used in the game sector to house breeding birds, usually for a short period of a few months during the breeding season, as they can offer significant advantages to bird welfare, biosecurity and egg hygiene.

If the committee decides to progress this matter, as the only organisation representing the game rearing sector in Wales, The Game Farmers’ Association, along with partners at Aim to Sustain (an umbrella organisation representing the game sector with GWCT acting as scientific advisors) would like to bring a variety of evidence to the committee that will help to create a more informed platform for decision making in this space. We would particularly like to draw the committee’s attention to a major scientific research project carried out in Wales, and overseen by Defra, that specifically addressed concerns about the welfare standards of RLUs. The “independent impact assessment of animal welfare for game birds kept in cages for breeding” that the committee has been urged to set up would, we feel, be a duplication of this research.

There is a variety of other areas relevant to this topic that we would like to discuss, which collectively address all the concerns highlighted to the committee in recent correspondence. We feel that the discussion of these points will save the committee a considerable amount of time, should it decide to include this matter in its forward work programme. We would also like to draw the committee’s attention to discussions that we had with representatives of the Welsh Government in September 2019, concerning a review of the Code of Welfare for Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes in Wales, at which RLU’s were discussed in considerable detail. The aforementioned research was reviewed as part of these discussions and no changes to the Code were proposed as a result.



Should the Committee decide to take the issue of RLUs any further we would very much like to present our evidence to the Committee in person at the earliest opportunity and we await your response.

Yours Faithfully,



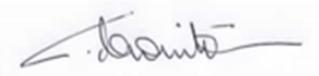
George Davis  
(The Game Farmers' Association)



Rachel Evans  
(Countryside Alliance)



David Pooler  
(National Gamekeepers' Organisation)



Charles De Winton  
(Country Land & Business Association)



Roger Draycott  
(Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Senedd Cymru

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10 October 2024

### Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Forthcoming Intergovernmental Meetings

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of the inaugural meeting of the Council of the Nations and Regions, which will take place in Scotland on 11 October. I will attend in person. The focus of the meeting will be on maximising opportunities to deliver investment and growth across the UK.

On the same day, I anticipate involvement in a further meeting between the Prime Minister, the First Minister of Scotland and the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, as well as a short bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister.

I will provide an update after the meeting.

I am copying this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs; Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning; Julie James MS, Counsel General and Minister for Delivery; the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, the Llywydd; the Finance Committee; and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely



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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.

# Agenda Item 3

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### **Foundational Economy Evidence 2024.**

- To what extent has the Welsh Government embedded support for the foundational economy into its overall approach to economic development? What further steps should it take to do this?

Context: Our reading of the Foundational Economy (FE) is it is meant to be an 'Economy+' model. An approach to doing business and achieving increased social/environmental benefit as well. In any economy, but especially this one, the model is necessary and should be developed/protected.

There is a good team leading on the FE approach and Karen Coombs is a strong lead/link.

The 2023/24 grant programme was a kick starter. As a recipient of grant, we were able to introduce innovation across our service provision and initiate services unique to Wales. This good start it has had, should be built upon with additional resources and increased status within Welsh Govt. We provide further details in our subsequent answers below.

- Given the cross-portfolio nature of the foundational economy, how should the Welsh Government create a co-ordinated approach to mainstreaming support for foundational economy sectors across government?

The aforementioned grant programme was one-year, short term. This allows for a solid kick start to projects but detracts from some of those projects turning into viable business propositions and any mainstreaming requires longer term investment rather than short term grant. The FE sector requires parity with funding streams focused on the growth of the private sector. Working with the private sector, public funding is arranged and administered on a longer-term basis and is as a consequence, much more of an enabler.

As a conjoined comment to the above private sector observation, in practice, the FE runs the risk of supporting ideas (led by committed/energetic people) which are never going to realise any sort of commercialisation – this is self-defeating. To thrive and have a long-term influence on the Welsh economy, the FE sector requires businesses that have defined markets, strong products/services ready for those markets, skilled leadership and proven social/environmental impact.

- Which of the Welsh Government's foundational economy policy initiatives have been most successful, and why? Which have worked less well, and why?

We can only comment on what we have been part of...’Food Sector and Supply Chains’  
As noted earlier, the grant enabled part of our development and was/is helpful.  
We however have seen no benefit in barriers being reduced for us to enter into public procurement – this remains a goal of ours but none of the current direction of travel make this goal realistic at this point.

- What examples of best practice exist in different foundational economy sectors and places within or beyond Wales? How could the Welsh Government better support partners to deliver best practice, and to scale it up where appropriate?

We will list ourselves as current best practice. This answer repeats in part the earlier reference to longer term funding support akin to the private sector support offer. We have developed with FE support and business model unique to the UK and capable of addressing key business/societal issues such as poor food products into schools, low skills in school kitchens, poor health in children and adults and the redistribution of new profits for community benefit. With the correct investment, this model could be scaled to impact the whole of Wales and has enormous market potential to create jobs throughout.

- What progress has been made in using procurement to strengthen the foundational economy since [our predecessor Committee looked at this issue in 2019](#)? What further actions are required to deliver greater progress, and what innovative examples of best practice could be built on?

Our answer concerns the supply of food into the public sector service space: Welsh procurement is still some way away from supporting the needs of those who are eating the food provided. We have a supply chain wholly focused on the needs and profit of the supply chain as opposed to the health and wellbeing of the children/adults eating the food – In 2024, with the health concerns we have, this is wrong. As an example...Scandinavian models require a tender to reach as much as 80% social value, yet we are still involved in practice which is significantly some distance away from this. The balance of cost and quality can be found but policy and the application of procurement must drive the change. There then also needs to be training offered to the officers who work across the procurement teams – too many of the current staff group are used to ‘price first’ practice and for most (we have met) social value is a loose/misunderstood term, which though interpretation is devalued, at the point of assessment.

How effective have the Welsh Government’s actions to deliver fair work in foundational economy sectors been? What further steps should it take within its devolved powers to progress this agenda, and how can it work with the UK Government to drive improvements in non-devolved areas?

In practice, we do not think the FE is viewed as a serious sector and is certainly viewed as a poor-neighbour of the private business sector. Also, within Welsh Government, the cross-cutting approach appears to a discussion point, an intent, but is practice falls short – we have a strong example of this should anyone want the details. Our economy,

and the needs of the population have changed enormously since COVID and a strong FE is required to redress some of the problems we have. However, the current signs are that the FE sector will not have access to the investment it needs – and without investment, the sector will not grow.





## FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY INQUIRY

### INTRODUCTION TO ADRA (TAI) CYFYNGEDIG

Adra (Tai) Cyfyngedig are the largest social landlord in north Wales. Adra looks after over 7,200 homes and provides services to over 18,000 customers.

Adra employ 380 members of staff. This includes 130 skilled tradespeople within our own in-house repairs and maintenance team, Tim Trwsio. This team delivers the majority of our repairs and maintenance work; and a number of our planned maintenance schemes including decarbonisation schemes.

Adra recently reached the milestone of building our 1,000<sup>th</sup> new home; and we are committed to help achieve the aspirational Welsh Government target of delivering 20,000 new social homes during the current Senedd term.

Adra also provide a range of high-quality housing management services to help sustain our tenancies; and provide in-depth support to some of our most vulnerable customers across the north Wales region.



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## KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **To what extent has the Welsh Government embedded support for the foundational economy into its overall approach to economic development? What further steps should it take to do this?**
  - 1.1 Establishing a clear and consistent definition of what constitutes the Foundational Economy (FE) in Wales would provide clarity and understanding and would provide further context when discussing this subject area. There are some elements of consistency; but there is also some ambiguity as to which sectors form the Foundational Economy in Wales.
  - 1.2 Welsh Government has provided support to the FE in Wales to a certain extent within its current approach to Economic Development. This is evidenced via a range of policies; business support programmes; training and skills development initiatives. This is demonstrated via a range of capital and revenue funding provided to a range of programmes and projects that operate within the FE in Wales.
  - 1.3 It could be argued that Welsh Government's main focus in terms of its economic development programme is to provide support to the high-tech/tradables/high-growth sectors. This is evidenced via the focus of the regional Growth Deals established through Wales. These growth sectors also seem to be the main focus of business support programmes delivered through Wales, including via Business Wales.
  - 1.4 Focusing support and capital investment in the high-growth/high-tech sectors in relation to the economic benefits and outcomes they deliver in Wales should continue. However, this should be done in conjunction with providing equal support and investment in the Foundational Economy as this economy employs circa 40% of the workforce in Wales (according to various reputable sources). This includes providing continued support and funding to the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) sector in Wales who operate within the FE.
  - 1.5 In the social housing sector in Wales in which Adra operates; Welsh Government have provided substantial funding support via a range of programmes including the Supported Housing Grant; Transitional Accommodation Capital Funding Programme; Optimised Retrofit Programme; Housing Support Grant; which, combined with the social housing sector's own substantial investment programmes contribute significantly to the FE in Wales.
  - 1.6 Establishing longer-term strategies in sectors which operate within the FE in Wales would provide longer-term clarity and certainty in terms of future growth and investment opportunities and aspirations within this sector. This includes developing a long-term housing strategy for Wales which is underpinned with an aspirational development plan for the sector.



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1.7 Establishing a long-term economic strategy for Wales which includes its long-term vision in terms of support for both the FE and high-growth & high value sectors should be considered. A better understanding is required of how the Foundational Economy contributes towards economic development in Wales; and this should be embedded within any economic strategy for Wales as Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of the Welsh Economy.

## 2. Given the cross-portfolio nature of the foundational economy, how should the Welsh Government create a co-ordinated approach to mainstreaming support for foundational economy sectors across government?

2.1 As demonstrated in the previous question; developing a long-term economic strategy for Wales in which the Foundational Economy is embedded should be a priority for Welsh Government. The FE requires parity with high-value growth sector and activities in Wales given its overall contribution to economic growth and sustainability in Wales.

2.2 Ensuring that any economic strategy provides both clarity and aspirations in terms of future support for key FE sectors including housing; health and social care; food and drink; heat and decarbonisation would provide a firm steer to these sectors that it is a government priority to help them grow and flourish.

2.3 Welsh Government business support programmes including those delivered by Business Wales should be focused on providing support to SMEs to grow. These businesses are the backbone of Welsh communities; and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future as major growth and investment programmes are very few and far between in many parts of Wales.

2.4 In conjunction with a long-term economic strategy; Welsh Government should ensure that it has long-term strategies and plans in place for key sectors of the FE in Wales e.g. Wales don't have a housing strategy.

2.5 Businesses who operate within the FE can continue to flourish with a combination of government support and part funding some of their own growth aspirations funded via a range of methods including private sector investment. There is a responsibility and duty on the sector itself to identify and deliver growth opportunities.

2.6 Establishing a clear set of measures and indicators which measure the true impact of this sector would help establish the sector's contribution to the economy, and shape future government support and investment decisions linked to the FE.



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### 3. Which of the Welsh Government's foundational economy policy initiatives have been most successful, and why? Which have worked less well, and why?

- 3.1 There are a range of examples where Welsh Government policy initiatives have contributed successfully to the growth of certain sectors within the FE in Wales.
- 3.2 Within the social housing sector, aspirational policies such as delivering 20,000 new social homes within the current Senedd term and the associated funding provided by Welsh Government has contributed to the growth of the social housing sector in Wales and its associated supply chains. The aspirational Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 (WHQS2023) has the potential to contribute significantly to construction sector growth in Wales over the next decade as the sector seeks to decarbonise its housing stock.
- 3.3 There are examples in other FE sectors where policy initiatives have contributed to the growth of these sectors. Evidence provided by industry experts in fields such as tourism and food & drink testify to this.
- 3.4 Personal Learning Accounts within the construction and decarbonisation sectors have made a positive contribution to the development and growth of individuals and businesses within these sectors. However, it must be ensured that this support continues consistently throughout Wales; most notably within decarbonisation funding and training. This is a growth sector; and funding isn't consistent through Wales at present when it should be given the contribution this sector will deliver to the FE in Wales in future years.
- 3.5 Ty Gwyrddfai, the first decarbonisation hub of its kind in the United Kingdom was established on an old industrial unit at Penygroes in 2023. The development is a collaboration between Adra, Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Bangor University. The development will transform the industrial site into a decarbonisation hub that will ensure that north west Wales will be at the forefront of the decarbonisation agenda, working with communities and businesses to retrofit homes over the next decade. This centre benefited from a range a funding sources including from Welsh Government. This includes Transforming Towns; Circular Economy combined with internal investment by Adra. Welsh Government support in initiatives such as Ty Gwyrddfai will have a positive effect on the FE. The number of businesses receiving training/accreditations/networking and gaining new contracts and work via the centre is significant. It is a prime example of how Welsh Government and private investment can make a significant contribution to the FE in Wales.
- 3.6 In terms of what hasn't work so well; certain elements of funding which have made a significant contribution to the economy in north Wales have uncertain futures. A prime example is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The north Wales region has benefited significantly from this investment; and in particular, the revenue funding it has provided which is more difficult to attain in



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comparison to capital funding on a range of programmes. Having a firm succession plan in place for this programme is critical for the continued support and growth of FE sectors throughout Wales.

3.7 Adra established Academi Adra in 2022. This initiative is mainly targeted at Adra tenants to provide them with skills, training and employment opportunities. Adra provides core funding towards the initiative; however, Shared Prosperity Fund has allowed us to significantly enhance the outcomes that Academi Adra delivers. Since its inception, over 150 training opportunities have been funded; 50 paid work placements with Adra and its supply chain have been delivered and over 30 jobs have been created to date with Adra and its supply chain. The current uncertainty over the future of the Shared Prosperity Fund will have a negative impact on a range of positive activities it has delivered across the north Wales region and beyond.

3.8 Business Wales has a key role to play in supporting SMEs in Wales. Future business support programmes must provide equal support to both high-growth activities and SMEs in Wales.

3.9 It is widely reported that there is a decline in apprenticeships in a range of sectors within the FE. This should certainly be an area of focus for future government policy initiatives and intervention. Construction is a prime example where there is a significant skills shortage. Careers within sectors such as construction must be positively promoted as attractive career paths from an early age, and certainly promoted from the higher education curriculum and above. The opportunities that currently exist within the sector will continue to grow with Welsh Government decarbonisation aspirations. Initiatives such as Academi Adra supplement what higher and further education sectors deliver within this sector; but future government policy and career pathways/skills development must promote careers within the FE as attractive ones and must deliver a skilled workforce for the future within the sector.

#### 4. What examples of best practice exist in different foundational economy sectors and places within or beyond Wales? How could the Welsh Government better support partners to deliver best practice, and to scale it up where appropriate?

4.1 As identified in question 3, Ty Gwyrddfai is a prime example of best practice in the decarbonisation and construction sectors in Wales. This partnership between Adra, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Bangor University is at the forefront of decarbonisation in Wales. The centre is delivering on a range of outcomes; from upskilling Adra's own workforce to grow and deliver more work; to ensuring local supply chains have the skills and accreditations to deliver decarbonisation work in social and private sector homes in the north Wales region in future. Bangor University have established an innovative 'Living Lab' within the centre which will allow manufacturers to test products in a controlled environment. The centre also benefits from a range of partnerships with 20 private sector companies (including Saint Gobain; Nuaire; Travis Perkins; Worcester Bosch) who



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work with the local supply chain to provide training, accreditation and delivery opportunities. This is one of a range of positive examples that exist within the FE where a combination of government support and private sector funding combine to deliver positive outcomes for the FE.

- 4.2 In Gwynedd, social enterprises play a significant role in underpinning and strengthening the FE. The importance of this sector in rural north-West Wales cannot be underestimated; and the outcomes they deliver within a range of sectors are both innovative and impactful within the communities they operate.
- 4.3 Creating Enterprise established by Cartrefi Conwy specialises in modular construction, building timber frame Passivhaus standard homes. This is another prime example of innovation and how skills and employment opportunities are created in the social housing sector in Wales. With the current shortage of quality, decarbonised social homes in Wales; initiatives like this are both sustainable and provide a range of sustainable employment opportunities.
- 4.4 In terms of Welsh Government support, consideration should be given to providing additional revenue funding to initiatives that deliver significant outcomes in the FE sector. In the short term, addressing the funding gap which will exist following the end of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund must be a priority. Businesses operating within the FE sector will have lost previous sources of European Funding; and this combined with the loss of the UK SPF funding will make it harder for initiatives which deliver strong positive outcomes such as Academi Adra to continue delivering in their current format.
- 4.5 Ensuring continued funding and support for Personal Learning Accounts in the fields of decarbonisation and construction throughout Wales should also be a short-term priority. Construction and decarbonisation are growth sectors, and Welsh Government business support programmes and associated skills and training funding should mirror sectoral growth aspirations, to ensure Welsh businesses are best placed to deliver on decarbonisation contracts including WHQS2023.

## 5. What progress has been made in using procurement to strengthen the foundational economy since our predecessor Committee looked at this issue in 2019? What further actions are required to deliver greater progress, and what innovative examples of best practice could be built on?

- 5.1 The Procurement Act 2023 will provide the framework in which public sector procurement in Wales operates in future. This Act does in theory provide more focus on local supply chains and achieving greater social value through contracts. How this equates in practice to strengthen the FE will be monitored and reviewed in future. Linking public sector procurement in Wales with the objectives of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act should also strengthen the FE.



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- 5.2 The underlying challenge due to a combination of financial pressures on the public sector purse; the cost-of-living crisis; is that procurement processes are inevitably linked to achieving best value for money; and that does not always result in local procurement.
- 5.3 Ensuring procurement processes are linked with social value; and sustaining local supply chains who provide quality work via a combination of actions including being living wage employers should be at the heart of any procurement policy and process.
- 5.4 Adra launched Ffram24 in 2024. This framework is a cornerstone for Welsh organisations seeking a reliable and quality supply chain. Ffram 24 is a multi-supplier framework and is designed to offer comprehensive solutions for building materials and associated services. As a Wales-only initiative, it stands out for its significant social impact, directing investment into Welsh companies and ensuring that the social value generated remains within Wales. The Welsh Government fully endorses Ffram24, recognising it as a natural successor to the National Procurement Service building materials framework. Ffram 24 is accessible to a diverse range of public sector bodies and charities in Wales to meet their supply chain requirements. This is a prime example of how procurement can be delivered collaboratively in Wales, whilst retaining the social value of these contracts in Wales.
- 5.5 In rural Wales, the Arfor programme is leading the way in terms of supporting companies in the heartland of Wales to prosper through economic interventions whilst focusing on the Welsh language. An example is Tendra, an Arfor funded programme run by Adra and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai to upskill the local supply chain to compete for public and private sector contracts. This is achieved via a range of activities including procurement workshops and Meet the Buyer events. Arfor delivers a whole range of other programmes which contribute positively to the FE sector in rural Wales.
- 6. How effective have the Welsh Government’s actions to deliver fair work in foundational economy sectors been? What further steps should it take within its devolved powers to progress this agenda, and how can it work with the UK Government to drive improvements in non-devolved areas?**

- 6.1 Fair work can be defined as “the presence of observable conditions at work which means workers are fairly rewarded, heard and represented, secure and able to progress in a healthy, inclusive working environment where rights are respected”.



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- 6.2 Adra are proud to be a real living wage employer. We believe in the principles of fair work; as it brings a whole range of benefits; including staff retention and staff consistently tell Adra as part of the annual staff satisfaction survey that they are proud to work for Adra.
- 6.3 Some public sector bodies in Wales are real living wage employers, whilst others are not. In essence, paying a decent wage is a core principle of “fair work”. Therefore, more work needs to be done at regional and national levels to encourage more public sector bodies to become real living wage employers.
- 6.4 In terms of its devolved powers, Welsh Government and key stakeholders need to increase its investment into apprenticeships and training in certain FE sectors including construction. As there are skills shortages within the construction sector, these career pathways can be positively promoted from a higher education level to outline the positive career pathways that exists in the sector; and the opportunities that exist to develop within this sector which delivers fair work.
- 6.5 Promoting career pathways in key FE industries including health; education and construction and ensuring the public sector bodies who operate within these sectors deliver fair work would have a positive impact on the FE and on the Welsh language in rural areas. Bevan Foundation identified these opportunities in their “Poverty in Arfon” report published in 2023. Adra and its partners will form a strategic group to drive forward some of the recommendations identified within this report.
- 6.6 Collaboration and sharing best practice amongst peers who operate in similar sectors should also be encouraged to ensure that the Welsh FE continues to be both prosperous and resilient.

# Agenda Item 7

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# Agenda Item 8

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# Agenda Item 9

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