

Concise Minutes – Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee room 3 – Senedd
and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Wednesday, 15 January
2025

Meeting time: 09.30 – 12.32

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/14786>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Andrew RT Davies MS (Chair) Hannah Blythyn MS Luke Fletcher MS Samuel Kurtz MS Jenny Rathbone MS
Witnesses:	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 Jack Sargeant MS, Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership Gian Marco Currado, Welsh Government Andrew Gwatkin, Welsh Government Dr Richard Irvine, Welsh Government



	<p>Jamie Powell, Welsh Government</p> <p>Peter Ryland, Welsh Government</p> <p>Duncan Hamer, Welsh Government</p> <p>Jo Salway, Welsh Government</p> <p>Jason Thomas, Welsh Government</p>
Committee Staff:	<p>Robert Donovan (Clerk)</p> <p>Rachael Davies (Second Clerk)</p> <p>Nicole Haylor–Mott (Deputy Clerk)</p> <p>Elfyn Henderson (Researcher)</p> <p>Sara Moran (Researcher)</p> <p>Lucy Morgan (Researcher)</p> <p>Madelaine Phillips (Researcher)</p> <p>Gareth David Thomas (Researcher)</p>

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Andrew RT Davies confirmed his new role as Chair of the Committee, following Paul Davies MS stepping down.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and paid tribute to the contribution of Paul Davies MS as previous Chair.
- 1.3 Apologies were received from Hefin David MS.
- 1.4 Under SO 17.24A, Samuel Kurtz MS and Andrew RT Davies MS declared an interest.

2 Papers to note

- 2.1 The Committee noted the papers.

- 2.1 Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
 - 2.2 Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC)
 - 2.3 42nd British-Irish Council Summit
 - 2.4 Petition: P-06-1478 Comprehensively review NRW and its failure to deliver its statutory obligations to protect Wales
 - 2.5 Foundational Economy evidence session – 14 November 2024: follow-up
 - 2.6 Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill
 - 2.7 Invitation to attend meetings relating to the Children, Young People and Education Committee’s inquiry ‘Routes into post-16 education and training’
 - 2.8 Legislative Consent: Product Regulation and Metrology Bill
 - 2.9 The Disability Employment Gap and the education system
 - 2.10 Future of Welsh Steel
 - 2.11 Annual scrutiny of the Development Bank of Wales
 - 2.12 Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group on UK-EU relations
 - 2.13 Publication of amendments to the Joint Fisheries Statement (Annex A – Fisheries Management Plans)
 - 2.14 Temporary Closure of Holyhead Port
 - 2.15 Representation on Inter-Parliamentary Bodies
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- 3 **Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning and the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership**
- 3.1 The Committee heard evidence from Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government, and Jack Sargeant MS, Minister for

Culture, Skills and Social Partnership, Welsh Government, on matters related to economy and skills.

3.2 Under SO 17.24A, Jack Sargeant MS declared an interest in relation to this item.

3.3 The Ministers agreed to provide further information to the Committee in relation to support provided to those affected by TATA steel, the Young Persons' Guarantee and Tech Valleys.

4 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs and the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

4.1 The Committee heard evidence from Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government, and Huw Irranca–Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government, on matters related to trade.

4.2 The Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide further information to the Committee in relation to the Export Action Plan.

5 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

5.1 The Committee heard evidence from Huw Irranca–Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government, on matters related to rural affairs.

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

6.1 The Committee agreed the motion to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting.

7 Consideration of evidence following the meeting

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received under Items 3,4 and 5 and agreed to consider its draft report at the next meeting.