

# Agenda – Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: Thursday, 12 January  
2017

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

**Martha Howells**

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6363

[SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales)

## Private pre-meeting

(09.30–09.45)

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

**2 Inquiry into the future of agricultural and rural development policies in Wales – Funding, regulation and trade**

(09.45–10.45)

(Pages 1 – 19)

Dai Davies, Chairman, Hybu Cig Cymru

Stephen James, President, National Farmers' Union

Arfon Williams, Wales Environment Link

## Break

(10.45–11.00)

**3 Inquiry into the future of agricultural and rural development policies in Wales – Tourism and access**

(11.00–11.45)

Adrian Barsby, Wales Tourism Alliance

Angela Charlton, Director, Ramblers Cymru



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Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

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Assembly for  
Wales

#### **4 Paper(s) to note**

(11:45 – 12:00)

**Letter from Countryside Alliance on use of snares in Wales**

(Page 20)

**Response from Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to the statement on the future of agricultural and rural development in Wales**

(Pages 21 – 22)

**Letter from Natural Resources Wales**

(Pages 23 – 29)

**Response from Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs – following budget scrutiny session**

(Pages 30 – 47)

**A Smarter Energy Future for Wales Report – Welsh Government Response**

This document is 27 pages and can be found here:

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s57872/Welsh%20Government%20Response.pdf>

**Letter from Cabinet Secretary on issues arising from the work of the Committee**

(Pages 48 – 73)

#### **Lunch**

(12.00–12.45)

#### **5 Inquiry into the future of agricultural and rural development policies in Wales – Forestry and the uplands**

12:45–13:30)

Nick Fenwick, Farmers Union of Wales

Tony Davies, Fairness for the Uplands

Martin Bishop, National Manager Wales, Confor

Frances Winder, Woodlands Trust

**6 Inquiry into the future of agricultural and rural development policies in Wales – Rural communities**

(13:30–14.20)

Tim Peppin, WLGA

Cllr Jamie Adams

Councillor Goronwy Edwards

Dafydd Gruffydd, Business Manager for LEADER in Anglesey and Gwynedd

**7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:**

**Private Debrief**

(14.20–14.30)

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 4.1



Dear Committee Members

RE: Response to the evidence session to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, to include our response to the letter received by the committee from the League Against Cruel Sports dated 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2016.

Many thanks for the opportunity to give evidence on the use of snares in Wales on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.

Firstly, it is important to note that the figure quoted by Vicky Howells AM of 1.7 million mammals snared every year in England and Wales is in fact the League Against Cruel Sports figure and is nowhere to be found in the DEFRA report. Once again, we emphasise that this calculation is wholly inaccurate and is a miss representation of scientific research.

It is pleasing to see that in the letter dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 to the committee that the League wholeheartedly admit and even set out the methodology of their miss use of data from the *two* different case studies . The process is exactly as we analysed and is therefore *not* a true account of the number of mammals snared every year in Wales. A further example of how ridiculous their figures are is that if this were true, then the whole of the mammal population would be wiped out in approximately 18 weeks.

I also note that they claim that their figures are not challenged by DEFRA. This is of course for DEFRA to comment upon, however I am not surprised in the slightest that DEFRA have not commented on such a bizarre manipulation of scientific research.

I would welcome further engagement with the committee on this issue and the door is wide open for any practical or written information we as an organisation can provide.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel".

Rachel Evans  
Director for Wales  
Countryside Alliance



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/LG/8030/16

Mark Reckless AM  
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff  
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20

December 2016

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 8 November regarding the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into the future of agricultural, environment and rural policies in Wales. I was also pleased to meet with you on 13 December to discuss a range of matters, including the Committee's current inquiry which I welcome.

I would like to re-iterate my full support for the calls for the UK Government to commit to providing Wales with the same level of EU funding it currently receives. This is a key issue and the First Minister has sought assurances from the UK Government that existing EU funding will be replaced in full, including that equivalent monies in programmes like CAP will be guaranteed to the end of the current programmes in 2023. We will continue to make a strong and positive case for Wales to receive its fair share of funding in the longer term after the UK exits the EU.

I also fully support the Committee's calls for the UK Government to recognise Wales should maintain the freedom to make future policies on devolved areas. I would underline it is essential the devolved administrations play a full part in discussions, not least as policy areas such as agriculture, environment and rural development have been wholly devolved for the last 17 years. This will avoid unintended consequences and allow the unique context in each area to be fully reflected in the wider UK position. Within the UK, we have already seen a divergence of both policy and legislation between the different parts of the UK, as most recently seen in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. There are also key areas where we deal directly with the European Commission, for example, in relation to funding Programmes and agricultural payments and we must, therefore, be fully involved in the process of exiting those arrangements.

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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.

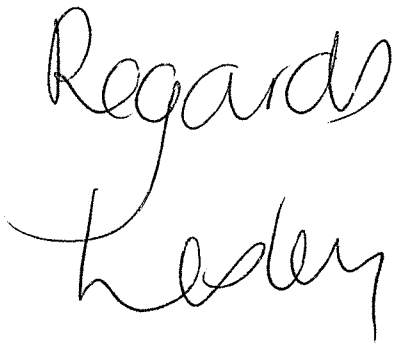
Pack Page 21

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I reinforced these key points when I hosted the first monthly meeting with UK Agriculture Ministers on 8 November in Cardiff and again at a further meeting on 12 December. I also met with the Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom MP, last month to discuss EU Transition and a series of quarterly meetings have been arranged together with Devolved Administrations for January. Through this cycle of meetings, I will continue to build on the discussions to date and work closely with the UK Government and Devolved Administrations to ensure Welsh interests are reflected in the UK's negotiating position. As future trade arrangements and associated supply chain impacts have implications across the environment and rural affairs portfolio, this also means greater involvement in non-devolved policy issues to ensure the needs of our industry in Wales are accounted for.

These discussions have highlighted that whilst the process of the UK's exit from the EU brings significant challenges, it also provides opportunities to set a new strategic direction for Welsh agriculture, tailored to specific Welsh needs. As a Government, we are committed to ensuring we safeguard and build on the progress made in relation to these policy areas, whilst addressing those areas where more needs to be done.

As I updated you at our recent meeting, I have been actively engaging with stakeholders to discuss the implications and opportunities following the EU Referendum and I hosted a fourth roundtable meeting with key stakeholders across my portfolio on 19 December.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Regards" on the top line and "Lesley" on the bottom line. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Mr Mark Reckless AM  
Chair, Climate Change & Rural Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
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3 January 2017

Dear Mark,

## REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FOLLOWING THE NRW SCRUTINY SESSION

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2016 (received 9 December). You asked for further information on some issues, and I set this out below.

### Business Case Savings

To ensure that we measure business case benefits accurately and in line with good practice we have developed an NRW Benefits Realisation Plan. This sets out a clear methodology as to how we measure both cash and non-cash benefits, and I have included a relevant extract as an annex to this letter. This Plan was reviewed as part of the Auditor General Wales report 'The development of NRW'.

As you recognise in your letter, in many cases there is a relationship between the profile of cash savings and the realisation of non-cash benefits. In the first years of NRW we have focussed initially on the separation of services from legacy organisations in order to develop our standalone capability. This has helped to realise the majority of cash benefits that were identified in the business case. Creating our standalone capability gives NRW more control of our activities and enables us to put in place changes to processes and ways of working that will generate non-cash benefits.

The achievement of non-cash benefits has been affected by constraints on resources as some of the cash savings generated have been used to manage reductions in WG funding. These were not anticipated in the business case which had the aim to reinvest these savings to build NRW capacity and to achieve standalone capability quicker.



We will continue our work of business improvement, but as pointed out in the 'Development of NRW' report it is increasingly difficult to attribute benefits from the creation of NRW as compared to activities required to address funding pressures.

### **The condition of Marine, terrestrial and freshwater Natura 2000 sites**

In terms of comparisons between Wales, England and Scotland, both Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have similar 95% targets for SSSI condition. Natural England's target was for more than 95% of its SSSIs (by area) to be in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition by 2010, which they state they have achieved. SNH adopted a similar target of at least 95% of features to be in favourable condition (again including those which are unfavourable recovering) and this year reported that 80.4% had achieved that target. In fact the bulk of the SSSI land in England is unfavourable recovering rather than currently favourable, and a smaller but still significant proportion of the SSSI features in Scotland are recovering but not yet favourable.

In Wales we adopted a different methodology to measure 'condition' of sites:

1. "Outcome" indicators based on the proportion of features in Favourable or Recovering Condition, as assessed under JNCC Common Standards Monitoring. This is a measure of real outcomes on the sites and may respond slowly to site actions.
2. "Output" indicators will be based on the proportion of land and sea area under 'Appropriate Conservation Management'. This is land and sea that has all necessary actions implemented or in place, such that NRW predicts, using expert judgement and available evidence, that the relevant features supported by that land or sea area will be in Favourable or Recovering Condition. This is a measure of 'outputs' and the completion of actions will be recorded as they happen giving an immediate measure of progress.

The methodology used to measure condition of sites in England and Scotland is therefore different to that used in Wales, and the statistics are not directly comparable.

In terms our role in improving and maintaining the condition of protected sites, NRW has a statutory duty to notify SSSIs to protect Wales' rarest habitats and species, and the best examples of our natural biodiversity and geo-diversity.

Achieving or maintaining appropriate conservation management in the longer term, on sites owned and managed by a diverse range of owners, occupiers and organisations, requires consultation and ongoing dialogue with NRW on proposed operations. NRW officers from our locally based teams visit sites to assess condition and to discuss management practices and sources of funding with owners and occupiers. In some

circumstances we can offer to enter into a management agreement where a management plan for the site is developed and agreed. Owners and occupiers can also enter into Glastir which provides financial support to carry out management which is compatible with protection and/or restoration.

NRW is developing a programme focused on embedding sustainable natural resource management into all of its work, including reviewing the contribution of protected sites to the ecosystem approach and natural resource management.

The Special Sites Programme is NRW's high level 'plan'. It identifies the conservation management issues and actions required on all management units across all SSSIs in Wales, including land directly managed by NRW (Welsh Government Woodland Estate and National Nature Reserves) and sites managed by all other owners and occupiers. This data is used to prioritise how the NRW budgets are spent, to inform NRW annual work programmes, and to inform forward planning. We work with individual landowners and land owning organisations to share information on conservation management issues advising, and guiding their priorities.

Conservation management issues arising on the protected sites within the Welsh Government Woodland Estate manage are identified and addressed by NRW through the Forest Resource Plan process. Management plans for National Nature Reserves are reviewed annually. Not surprisingly, the condition of habitats and species on National Nature Reserves is relatively better than the statistics for Wales overall, with 75% of features in favourable or recovering condition.

The data on SSSIs which are of international importance (Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites) has been analysed to inform Prioritised Improvement Plans, Thematic Action Plans and the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF). These documents inform decision making on the priorities going forward, and guide optimal use of funds, for example the NRW management agreement budget, Welsh Government grant schemes (Sustainable Management Scheme), and NRW or NGO applications to the EU LIFE fund.

### **The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)**

We are pleased to confirm that we will be engaging with our stakeholders in the production of the next version of SoNaRR. We have already been promoting the findings of our current report through a series of presentations and workshop events on how we best co-produce our Area Statements. We will also be holding a "lessons learnt" exercise on the production of the first SoNaRR with our stakeholders early in the New Year.

I hope that this answers your questions; please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

I am copying this letter to our Chair and to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emyr Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Emyr Roberts**

**Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru  
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales**

## Annex 1 – Methodology for the measurement of non-cash benefits

### Extract from NRW Benefits Realisation Plan

In the context of the Business Case investment aims, ‘benefits’ are the improvements that we can attribute to the creation of Natural Resources Wales. In planning and claiming benefits, we need to ask “Could we have achieved this without Natural Resources Wales?” Broadly, the changes that enable benefits are:

- Integration of functions and remits to deliver using new approaches and in a joined up way. Breaking down physical and cultural barriers by having staff in the same organisation.
- We can focus on Welsh priorities and solutions that work best for Wales and our customers.
- Bringing work into Wales that used to be carried out in England and Scotland.
- Delivering 3 into 1 economies of scale.
- The freedom to streamline our systems and work processes without the constraints associated with the much larger Environment Agency and Forestry Commission or the complexities that had developed in the legacy bodies.

A sound rationale and a relatively small set of rules will ensure that we are claiming benefits that relate to the Business Case in ways that avoid double-counting.

### Types of benefit

The accounting requires a broad categorisation of benefits, with collection and documentation tailored the type of benefit. A benefit may have up to four broad aspects to it:

- **Cash realisable savings** - Where we save money, including staff costs.
- **Non-cash realisable savings** - Where we save staff time that is kept within the organisation. Its value is the cost of the staff time that we are able to redeploy on more productive work.
- **Quantitative improvements** - We can measure a quantitative improvement, for example a faster service or better results.
- **Qualitative improvements** - There are many other improvements that we can describe, with evidence, but cannot measure quantitatively.

### Tracking Benefits

We have a framework of documents and processes that we are using to manage and report on benefits. This is comprised of a Benefit Plan and Record for every benefit that we have been able to identify and these are compiled into a central Benefits Register. This summarises the changes and the benefits under the categories of Customers, Better Outcomes, Delivery for Wales and Value for Money.

## **Baselines**

The financial baseline is established in the Business Case and is a forecast of what the unchanged situation would have cost in 2013/14. Other baselines must be from 2012/13 position (i.e. prior to setup), unless:

- Performance was being impacted by the start of changes during that year, in which case the baseline should be 2011/12.
- It is clear that the process or procedure was unchanged in 13/14, in which case that year may be used as the baseline.

## **Measuring cash benefits**

We are measuring cash benefits in broad categories in the 'cash and non-cash savings table' for which we can obtain reliable information and avoid double counting. We are able to relate these the Business Case categories of staff costs, non-staff costs, parent body payments and capital.

Staff cost savings:

We are accounting for the staff cost savings at an overall organisation level, so we can be certain that we are using an accurate figure without risking overlap between individual change initiatives. We are also recording where we have reduced staff costs to understand the impact of individual interventions. However, we are not attempting to build a bottom up view by summing the savings from individual interventions. This staff cost figure is the direct employment costs comprising salary, National Insurance and employer's pension contributions only.

Reduced payments to the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission:

Reductions in payments for non-ICT services as wholly cash realisable. Although we may start deploying resources to run such services within Natural Resources Wales, those resources come from within the overall budget of Natural Resources Wales and are not additional.

Other non-staff running cost savings:

We are using a bottom up approach to accounting for non-staff running costs, excluding ICT service costs. By avoiding double counting of budgets impacted by change interventions, we ensure that the savings identified are mutually exclusive and sum to give the overall non-staff cash realisable benefit.

Non-cash realisable benefit savings:

The main non-cash realisable benefit is greater productivity. Productivity is the amount of work per FTE. An increase in the work rate per FTE is a non-cash realisable productivity benefit. We are valuing increased productivity as “the difference between the cost of doing the work after the change intervention and what it would cost to do the same amount of work prior to the change”.

We are also able to place a value on some other non-cash realisable benefits. If we are able to stop a process required by FC or EA that we do not need in Wales, we are freeing up staff time for other work. A good example is a different approach to time recording. We are also able to value our ability to increase our capacity to cover duties or one off tasks. A good example anticipated by the Business Case is our ability to increase the number of people on rotas for incident response from a bigger pool of operations staff; we have valued this as the cost of the additional staff while they are on duty.

# Agenda Item 4.4

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/LG/7973/16

Mark Reckless AM  
Chair of the Committee on  
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs

5 January 2017

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 22 November, requesting additional information following my attendance at the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

The information you require is detailed below.

## General Queries – Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation systems apply to all of our programmes and are tailored to specific programme requirements. However, in terms of providing examples where we do have robust monitoring and evaluation systems in place, I would like to detail those within the Rural Development Programme and the Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

Responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU Structural Funds Programmes and the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Wales is managed by the Strategy Team within the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). The Strategy Team commission and manage all Programme and Scheme-level evaluations for these funds for the duration of the 2014-2020 Programming period. The main focus is to provide guidance and advice on monitoring and evaluation across the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds in Wales.

An evaluation plan was published as a part of the Programming documents for the WG RC-RDP 2014-20 which can be found at <http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/160418-wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020-document.pdf>

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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.

Additionally, within the RDP we have the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) which provides a comprehensive programme to monitor the impact of the Glastir scheme and contributes towards national trend data against a range of national and international biodiversity and environmental reporting requirements. The GMEP evidence base has also made a significant contribution to the State of Natural Resources Report and provides key data to a number of the Well Being of Future Generations indicators.

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework sets out our plan for continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals, whilst also helping to protect public health and making a contribution to the economy and the environment. Each year, the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group agree and publish an annual implementation plan. This outlines key priorities for the year and actions for delivery. The plan is subject to continuous review with a formal Mid Year and End of Year Review published.

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group which was established to support the implementation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework also have a key function to ensure there is a continuous review of progress through their quarterly meetings. Further information on the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework, including copies of the implementation plan and published reviews can be accessed at: [www.gov.wales/ahwframework](http://www.gov.wales/ahwframework)

### **General Queries – Impact Assessments**

This draft budget has seen minimal revenue budget reductions across my portfolio which tends to have the largest impacts on any protected groups. Although my capital budgets were reduced significantly over the four years, the additional investment arising from the Autumn Statement has mitigated much of any potential impacts. However, it is embedded practice that any impacts of the draft budget on protected groups are reviewed.

In terms of providing evidence of impact assessments on my policy or programme decisions can be seen by reviewing the RDP and Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

In 2013, Mott MacDonald were commissioned by the Welsh Government to undertake an EIA on the RDP 2014-20 to ensure the development, design and implementation of the RDP 2014-20 are accessible to all who are eligible to benefit from it. The EIA was sent out for consultation in July 2013 inviting comments and the EIA and comments were published.

Due to the nature of the RDP – it is a positive programme of investment, channelling funding into a range of interventions – it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010, or the Welsh language (as covered by the Welsh Language Act) as a result of the 2014-2020 RDP Programme.

The Programme is directed towards support for rural businesses, environmental protection, labour market participation and the alleviation of poverty (experienced by many members of equality groups), and support for rural communities; as such there are likely to be beneficial effects overall.



The inclusion of 'Equal Opportunities' as a cross cutting theme of the 2014-2020 Programme was mandatory, set out by the European Commission. From the outset, therefore, the Welsh Government was made aware of the need to include equality considerations in producing the Programme consultation documents. Equality was also incorporated in the brief and the methodology for the ex-ante evaluation of the 2014-2020 Structural Fund Programmes and RDP.

For example, Children in Wales (CIW) responded to the Consultation. "Children in Wales" is the national umbrella organisation in Wales, bringing organisations and individuals from all disciplines and sectors together. Its role is to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality in Wales. The CIW offered the following comments on the Wales RDP; in summary:

- "The report is very comprehensive and includes evidence to assess whether the Programme will have a positive impact or adverse effect on people from all the protected characteristics"

Regarding the Welsh Language, the 2014-2020 RDP offers significant opportunities to explore and promote interventions that inter-link the Welsh language and the vitality of the rural Wales economy. Given the nature of the RDP in Wales – being focussed on rural areas, which tend to contain far higher proportions of Welsh speakers than the urban centres –there is considerable potential for disproportionate benefits to be delivered to people who use the language.

In addition to the RDP Consultation, I can offer the development of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework as an example where the following assessments were undertaken;

- Equality impact assessment
- Welsh Language

Officials also considered the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a consequence, a children's version of the consultation was published followed by a children's version of the final Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework document. These documents can be viewed upon clicking on the links below.

<http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/140717-ahw-framework-childrens-version-en.pdf>

<https://documents.hf.wales.gov.uk/id:A6797283/document/versions/published>

## **Natural Resources – Outcomes and Outputs from the £1.575m NRMP**

In 2012 The Welsh Government (WG) procured the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) in order to satisfy EU regulations and establish a robust evidence base to inform the management of natural resources.

The current contract is delivered by a consortium led by the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Bangor station. The initial annual cost was £2 million; however, this has been reduced to £1.6 million through efficiency savings and cost sharing arrangements with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

GMEP is highly regarded by customers and stakeholders, including farming unions, research institutions and NGO's. It has been used on multiple occasions by the European Commission as an example of best practice and identified by the United Nations as an International exemplar.

The GMEP contract is due to expire in March 2017 and a successor programme is required. To help inform the design of a successor programme the WG and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) commissioned the GMEP Future Options Project. Full report available for download from <https://gmep.wales/resources#nrmf>

The project found a clear economic, policy and evidence rationale for a new integrated monitoring framework and identified 10 key recommendations (summarised as follows);

1. Working collaboratively the Welsh monitoring community should develop an Integrated Natural Resources Monitoring Framework (NRMF). This will make more effective use of people and funding and deliver increased benefits.
2. NRMF should service the needs of a wide customer base for natural resources evidence across Cabinet, NRW and partners.
3. A Coordination Board should be established that is representative of evidence users and providers. This will deliver an adaptive approach to monitoring, to improve the resilience of our natural resources and ecosystems and increase benefits.
4. The community should take advantage of the NRMF domestically and internationally to build capacity, increase co-funding and investment into Wales..
5. The NRMF should embrace, improve and integrate monitoring methods and technologies and in so doing deliver and benefit from innovation, new opportunities and make more effective use of resources. This approach will improve strategic deployment of resources ensuring an ongoing improvement programme.
6. The NRMF should follow the principle of collect once – reuse often. It should be a key source of data and evidence underpinning the Environment and the Well Being of Future Generations Acts.
7. NRMF should adopt a clear approach to efficient and effective sharing of data to enable the conversion of data into robust evidence products to increase the value and utility of data.
8. The NRMF should include a modelling and scenario testing component to underpin data interpretation. This will support the ongoing development of more robust policies which optimise the social and economic benefits derived from our natural resources and ecosystems in the long term.
9. To realise the significant benefits of this integrated framework a three phased approach over 5 years is required to convert the ambition into a practical programme.
10. The NRMF should increase engagement across Welsh Government, public, private and voluntary sectors.

Based on the 10 recommendations a benefits realisation exercise identified that the new integrated framework will:

- Make better use of resources (financial and social) across the monitoring community;
- Better inform wider Welsh Government policy;
- Enable more adaptive, responsive and targeted management of natural resources;
- Be a key evidence source for National Natural Resource Policy including the State of Natural Resources Report and a wider range of legislative requirements;
- Provide more accurate, timely and efficient delivery of data, evidence and information;
- Deliver integration of expertise, data and technologies;

## **Climate Change – Funding for UKCCC and delay in Sectoral Adaptation Plans**

The UK Committee on Climate Change (UKCCC) is jointly-sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government will be providing core funding of £149,473 to the UKCCC for 2016-17.

Some of the advice around the Environment Act provisions will be provided as part of the core funding already given to the UKCCC. We are undertaking discussions with the UKCCC around the further advice needed and will not be able to give a specific figure yet, until the detail of the work has been agreed.

Sectoral Adaptation Plans are one of the mechanisms included in our Climate Change Strategy's Delivery Plan, for different sectors to respond to the medium to longer term impacts and opportunities of climate change. It was the responsibility of the sectors themselves to develop plans to ensure they were appropriate and useful to their sectors. Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been developed to varying degrees across the sectors. For example, the Business and Tourism sector have concentrated their efforts on developing tools and guidance. The Health sector has a plan in place which is currently under review in light of the new evidence from the UKCCC. In planning and delivering our transport infrastructure we ensure resilience to climate change is a key consideration to developing a truly sustainable transport system.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act strengthens the legislative basis on climate change adaptation, providing statutory requirements on the Public Sector in Wales to consider the latest evidence on climate change when carrying out well-being assessments and developing its plans. This will ensure resilience is built at a local as well as a national level.

We have received new evidence from The UKCCC over the summer, which outlines its assessment of the risks to Wales from climate change. We will be reviewing our national policy in light of this evidence, and will be engaging with sectors to determine how we might deliver on this policy most effectively in the future.

In the meantime, we have successfully delivered on the urgent actions within the Delivery Plan, responding to the short term risks by protecting vulnerable people and increasing resilience of communities and businesses.

## **Planning – The cut to the Planning revenue budget**

The revenue budget for Planning and Building Regulations in 2016 – 2017 is £5,779. This amount has been reduced by 10% for 2017–18 to £5,201.

Against this background and the reality of declining budgets and reduced application numbers a strategic decision to close the Aggregate Levy Fund for Wales from next April has been made. This will yield £400,000 of the £579,000 savings which have to be found from Planning Directorate’s programme budget for 2017-18.

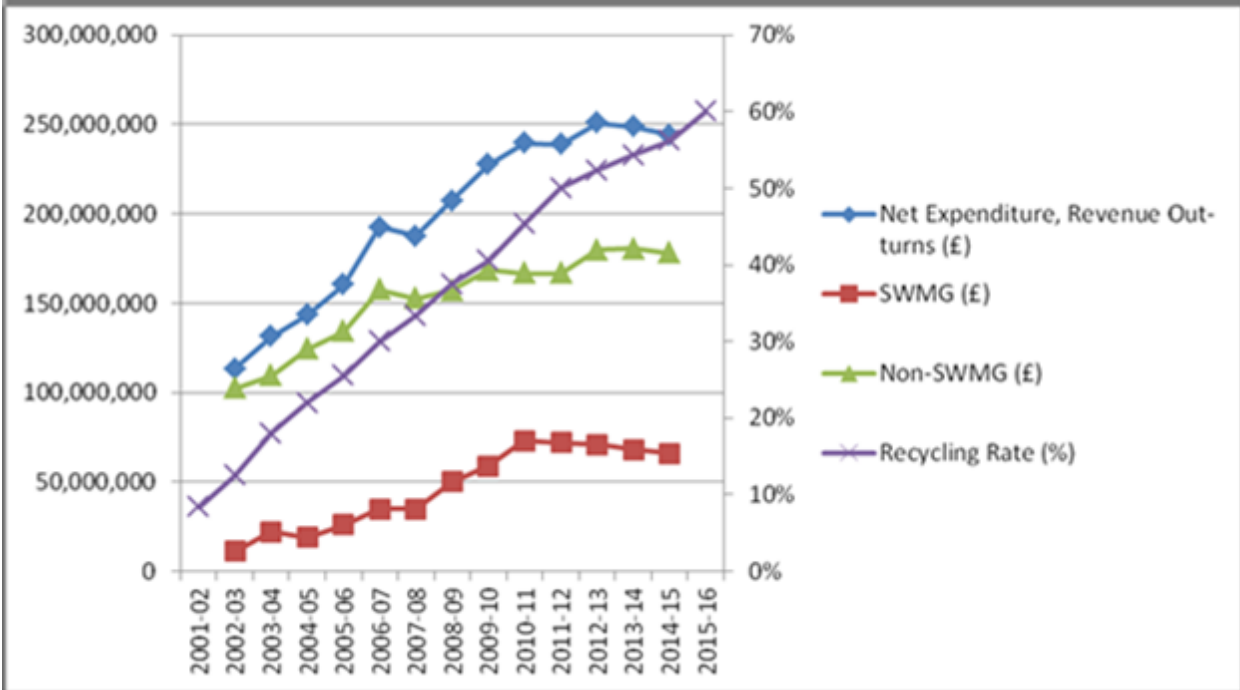
The remainder of the savings (£179K) will be made by reducing funding to implement the Positive Planning Programme.

**Energy – Local Energy Service**

The Local Energy Service has allocated funding to 20 projects. The table in the Annex sets out the detail for each project. We have allocated £0.210m in grants and £3.622m in loans. A further 32 projects have received non-financial support, mainly in the form of advice from the Local Energy Service’s development officers.

**Waste – Budget reduction and waste recycling rates**

It is my assessment that local authorities will be able to meet future recycling targets even with reduced funding of waste and recycling services. Local authority spending on waste and recycling has reduced over recent years whilst recycling rates have continued to increase (see graph):



There has been a move from the disposal of residual waste in landfill to its treatment in Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities. The gate fees for EfW are lower than for landfill leading to significant financial savings.

The Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) of the Welsh Government, delivered by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Cymru, is supporting local authorities to develop more efficient waste and recycling services. Support includes optimising route design, procuring vehicles and equipment with the potential to reduce revenue costs, marketing materials to optimise income from their sale and other initiatives. The CCP has identified the potential for further efficiencies through operational improvements.

Local authorities have invested in fleets, depots and equipment and this infrastructure is available to manage higher rates of recycling. Recycling is usually a lower cost option than EfW or landfill disposal as local authorities divert material from treatment/disposal to recycling.

A recent analysis of the composition of municipal waste in Wales shows that more than half the material in residual (black bag) waste is easily recyclable. If half of this were diverted for recycling, local authority recycling across Wales would exceed the 2024-25 recycling target of 70%. This can be done at minimal cost using infrastructure that is already in place.

### **European funding support for agriculture and rural development**

Funds transferred from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 of the CAP have been allocated to schemes across the RDP, including Glastir and the Sustainable Production Grant Scheme. It is too early in the programme to identify whether the transfer has yielded a return on investment; however, all socio-economic projects are assessed for value for money as one of the key selection criteria used for the selection of projects. Glastir options have been assessed through independent verification to ensure value for money. Return on investment and value for money may also be assessed during scheme and project evaluations throughout the programme.

As with all EU programmes, regular re-profiling is essential to ensure the maximum and most effective use of EU funds, in particular in response to changes in exchange rates over the lifetime of the programme. Re-profiling is also needed in order to reflect changes in priorities as the programme and the needs of rural communities develop. However, any re-profiling does not alter the forecast investment in the RDP over the programme period.

### **The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016**

I am confident and adamant we focus on sustainable development as the central organising principle, making decisions, such as budget development, take full account of the social and environmental objectives and impacts. In so doing, we have adopted an approach to embed collaboration, integration, long term, prevention and engagement into our policies and delivery as we take account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

During the draft budget, my officials reviewed every budget line in detail, which included how the budget or programme contributed to our priorities of Programme for Government, assessment of value for money, contribution to preventative spend, and how it contributed to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. I then reviewed each budget working paper and made my investment decisions using this evidence. This was the process used for every budget movement which I highlighted in my evidence paper.

For example, I re-allocated an additional £1.834m to the “Develop and deliver overarching policy and programmes on Agriculture, Food and Marine Action” in order to provide additional funding in respect of the Natural Resources Monitoring Programme (NRMP) and the Commons Act as well as realignment to reflect current forecasts on County Parish Holdings (CPH) and Electronic Identification (EID) Cymru developments.

The NRMP is covered within the budget for Technical agricultural and environmental advice (BEL 2864) which is crucial for meeting our obligations under the Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. The regulations implementing these Directives in Wales directly support the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Principle and each of the Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 principles and our policy aspiration in the Water Strategy for Wales to tackle diffuse pollution in Wales.

I have significant evidence of how my budgets are reviewed in line with the Wellbeing of Future generations Act, and I would be happy to share any of this detailed information should the committee wish to review this further.

I am also aware of the recently published report on the Draft Budget 2017-18 by the Finance Committee where it recommends that Welsh Government explore how an effective strategic impact assessment could better identify how the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act has influenced budget decisions. I am fully supportive of exploring this and will discuss such matters with the cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Project name	Size (kW)	Technology	Local Authority	Constituency	Grant offered	Loan offered
Bodfel Hall	900	Wind	Gwynedd	Aberconwy	£4,248.00	
Mynydd y Gwrhyd Wind Development	4700	Wind	Neath and Port Talbot	Swansea East		£3,550,000.00
BABS 5MW Solar	5000	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West		£60,000.00
Bonwm Hydro	93	Hydro	Denbighshire	Clwyd West	£792.00	
Wonderbank Solar	1000	Solar	Denbighshire	Denbighshire	£792.00	
Oernant Farm	500	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£4,056.00	
Afon Galedffrwd	100 or 231	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£11,534.50	
Brynwhilach 5MW solar	5000	Hydro	Swansea	Swansea West	£7,000.00	
Ffrwd Farm Wind	500	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£25,243.00	
Wonderbank Solar Farm	250 to 1000	Solar	Wrexham	Clwyd West	£792.00	
Cwm Bychan	27	Hydro	Gwynedd	Dwyfor Meirionnydd	£897.00	
SYDIC	500	Wind	Caerphilly	Caerphilly	£960.00	
Swansea PV Project	427	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West	£26,286.00	
Troed y Bryn	180	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£11,398.04	£12,000.00
Cwmsaebren	33	Hydro	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rhondda	£2,820.00	
Y Felin Ddwr Energy Farm	1000	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West	£28,320.00	
Nant y Fran	900	Wind	Anglesey	Ynys Mon	£1,750.50	
Bethesda CESCO Trial	100	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£48,850.00	
Afon Goch	55	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£16,335.00	
Mynachdy Wind Project	450	Wind	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rhondda Cynon Taf	£18,000.00	



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Animal Health & Welfare in Wales

A young person's consultation on the new framework

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

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# Introduction

## The way that people look after animals in Wales is really important.

The Welsh Government wants to make sure that animal health and welfare is the best it can be.

This means we want all animals to:

- be protected from pain, suffering, injury and diseases;
- have the right shelters and places to live;
- have healthy diets; and
- have everything else they need to have healthy normal lives.

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Animal health and welfare is important for everyone.

## The way that animals are bred, and looked after can make a real difference to people's lives.

This is because it can stop the spread of diseases, help create extra jobs in communities and make the farming industry in Wales stronger.



To make sure that this is happening, we want to make some changes and make a new plan called the

## Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales.

This Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales will have the steps we need to take to reach our goals. It will also show us when we reach these goals so we can see how our plans are working and bringing positive results.

Having this new framework in place would mean that Wales can:

- focus on the end results we want to see in animals lives;
- make sure that everyone living in Wales understands their part and responsibility to improve animal health and welfare; and
- make sure that all government policies and services are working together to improve animal health and welfare.

## What animals will this affect?

The framework will cover the health and welfare of:

- all farm livestock like cows and sheep;
- all kinds of pets;
- working animals like horses or dogs;
- animals involved in sports like horses; and
- animals that are a part of aquaculture or aqua-farming like salmon, shellfish and others.

It will also cover wildlife where anything we do such as farming could affect their health or welfare or where there is a risk of disease.

This booklet tells you about the changes we want to make and we want to know what you think about them.

## Why do we need a new Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales?

There are lots of different plans and government policies in place across the UK and Europe that set out rules for animal health and welfare.

One of these is 'The Great Britain Animal Health and Welfare Strategy'. This plan has done a lot of good things for animals across all of the UK including Wales but it ends in 2014.

We want to replace it with this new framework because it will help us focus more on the needs of Wales. It will also give us a better way to check on animal health and welfare so we get better end results.

This will mean we can:

- make sure that animal health and welfare is something that carries on and is at the heart of future plans for Wales;
- work in partnership better with the farming industry;
- link to other Welsh Government plans and policies better;
- focus on any problems and issues we have in different parts of Wales;
- help us to work with food and drinks industry;
- help create more jobs in farming and other businesses in Wales;
- use our money better; and
- help us reach our goals.

## Question 1

Do you agree that we need this new Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales?

Yes No Don't know

Comment



## This new framework

We want this new framework to give us steps towards our goals and show us clear evidence when we reach positive end results.

Having all the steps in place to make sure that animal health and welfare improves across Wales is really important.

This new framework will help everyone by:

giving everyone the same steps to follow that help us reach the end results we want for animal health and welfare across Wales;

helping us to work in partnership better with government departments, businesses and farming so we all have the same goals;

- giving us a way to check up and monitor what is happening;
- showing us if we need to make changes;
- giving us clear reports and evidence on how we are doing;
- giving us a system that can carry on for as long as we need; and
- making a real difference to other goals we have for Welsh Communities, the environment and the economy.

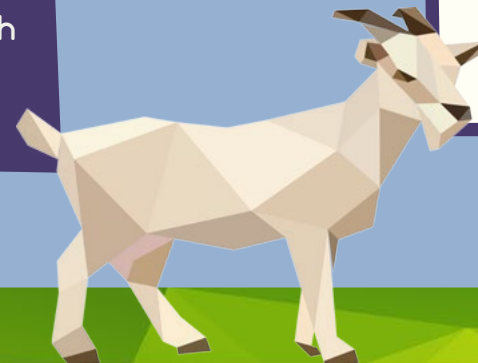
## Question 2

This framework focuses on showing how we are making a difference, by showing end results and outcomes.

**Do you think is a good idea?**

Yes      No      Don't know?

Comment



## What results will this framework measure?

We think because of this new framework we will see positive changes that make a real difference.

There are five different end results that we want this framework to measure.

Wales has healthy productive animals.

Animals in Wales have a good quality of life.

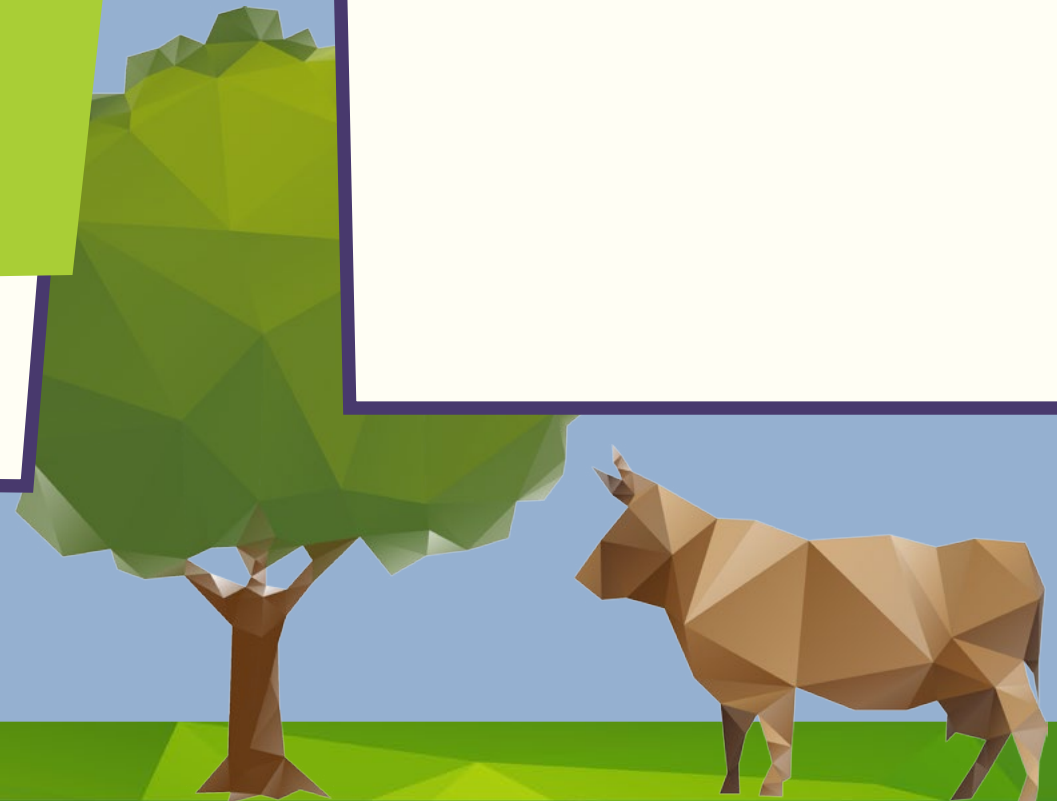
We call these **direct outcomes** because they are the main results and goals of this new framework.

## Question 3

Do you agree that this new framework could have these direct outcomes?

Yes No Don't know?

Comment



## What other results will this framework measure?

We also think having this framework in place will help make sure:

3. People have trust and confidence in the way food is produced and the way public health is protected.
4. Wales has more jobs, businesses and a growing thriving economy.
5. Wales has a better environment.

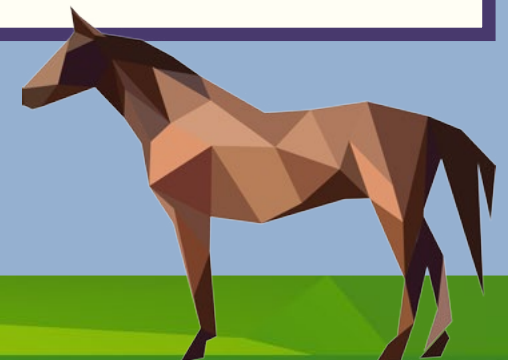
We call these **indirect outcomes** because they are not the main goals of the framework but we believe they will happen.

## Question 4

Do you agree that this framework could have these indirect outcomes?

Yes    No    Don't know?

Comment



## How will this framework work?

There are many different ways that we can make sure that this new framework does what we want it to do.

Some of these include:

- having a Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group that includes professionals and government officials;
- adding indicators or measuring points to this framework that help us track what we are doing and what we need to work on;
- develop a Programme of Outcomes that shows us what we want the end results to be;
- making sure that all information is available, up to date and easy to use when it is needed;
- working out if there are any gaps in the information;
- having a plan every year on how we want to reach our five direct and indirect impact results;
- having a Wales Animal Health and Welfare event every year where people can report back and check on how this new framework is working; and
- checking on how this framework is working after five years.

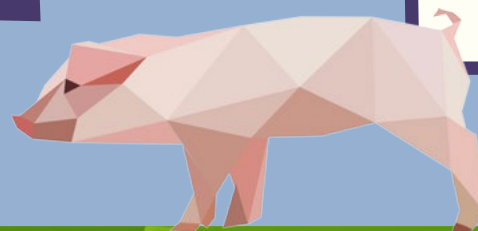
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## Question 5

Do you think these different ways are enough?

Yes      No      Don't know?

Which of them do you think will work best?



## How long will this framework be in place for?

We think that this framework should be in place for 10 years but we will check on how it is working and make changes if we need to.

### Question 6

Do you think 10 years is the right amount of time?

Yes      No      Don't know?

How long do you think?

Do you think there is anything we have missed out in these plans?

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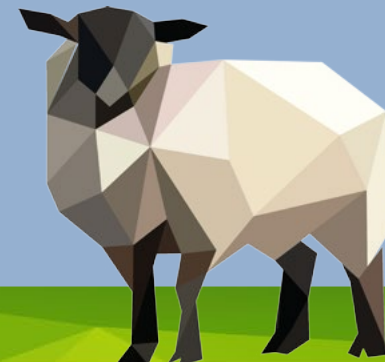
## Thank you for reading this

You can send your answers to:

Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Mailbox  
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer  
1st Floor, West Wing  
Cathays Park 2  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:

[AHWSSGSecretariat@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:AHWSSGSecretariat@wales.gsi.gov.uk)



# Agenda Item 4.6

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion  
Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-(P) /LG/07839/16  
Mark Reckless AM  
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee  
National Assembly  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

4 January 2017

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 23 November, requesting updated information on issues arising from the work of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

I have attached detailed responses to the issues you have raised as annexes to this letter.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**  
**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs**





**WOODLANDS FOR WALES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS AS AT 1  
DECEMBER 2016**

Action No	Priority	Update
1	Develop and maintain a risk register of pests and diseases and their threat to tree health in Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Ministers are responsible for tree health matters in Wales. This responsibility is delivered through a three-way arrangement between NRW, the Welsh Government and the Forestry Commission and its agency, Forest Research.</li> <li>• The Wales Tree and Plant Health Steering Group draws together Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), representatives from the forestry sector and environment groups to manage delivery of the Wales Tree Health Strategy.</li> <li>• The newly formed Wales Tree and Plant Health Surveillance Group comprises of representatives of Welsh Government, NRW, Forest Research and the Animal and Plant Health Agency. It monitors emerging plant health risks and undertakes contingency planning for response to plant health outbreaks.</li> <li>• High profile tree and plant pests for Wales are monitored and reviewed by the Surveillance Group and an updated list is maintained for review by the Steering Group.</li> <li>• Farming Connect are working with Forest Research to offer three "Tree Health" days for stakeholders to be briefed on tree and plant health issues.</li> <li>• NRW carry out regular surveillance for quarantined organism and key pests and diseases. This includes <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and Chalara dieback of ash. NRW produces a monthly Welsh specific report on <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and maintains a Welsh specific map showing the spread of Chalara.</li> <li>• NRW has promoted awareness of key pests through 2 joint seminars with Forest Research (attended by approximately 100 people).</li> <li>• NRW has provided awareness training to external groups such as the wildlife trusts.</li> <li>• NRW supports Welsh Government on a number of GB groups such as DEFRA's Risk Register Group (Forestry) and the GB and NI Steering Group.</li> </ul>
2	Implement the <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> recovery programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Disease Management Strategy, made under the umbrella of the Wales Tree Health Strategy has established two zones in Wales: the core disease zone (principally in South Wales) where there are high levels of infection in contiguous larch stands; and the disease limitation zone (the remainder of Wales) where there is light infection.</li> </ul>

		<p>Felling is targeted on new infections in the disease limitation zone to combat the rate of spread of the infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government is assisting NRW to replant areas of felled larch on the Welsh Government woodland estate (the area NRW has replanted in the last five years is: 2011/12 986 hectares; 2012/13 1,012 hectares; 2013/14 1,350 hectares; 2014/15 1,107 hectares; and 2015/16 1,237 hectares).</li> <li>• The Welsh Government is supporting restocking of infected larch in private woodlands via the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and the Glastir Woodland Restoration Scheme.</li> <li>• Whilst <i>P ramorum</i> is a disaster for larch in Wales, restocking felled areas is enabling greater ecological resilience to be built in to Wales' woodland ensuring that the natural resource can deliver a range of ecosystem services from climate change adaptation to timber production to access and recreation for the benefit of current and future generations.</li> <li>• In their role as the terrestrial tree health delivery body for Wales NRW carry out regular surveillance for quarantined organism and key pests and diseases, including <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>. NRW produces a monthly Welsh specific report on <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>.</li> <li>• NRW guidance being developed for local staff to help them prioritise sites for restocking, with the dual aim of reducing restocking costs and maintaining input into future productive sites.</li> <li>• A biosecurity media awareness campaign "Keep it Clean" undertaken by NRW Plant Health team.</li> </ul>
<p>3</p>	<p>Use the statutory and policy framework in Wales to deliver woodland creation to optimise the benefits provided by forestry, woodland and trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides the framework by which the wider contribution of forests, woodlands and trees can be recognised.</li> <li>• There has been uneven progress towards the goal of creating more woodland in Wales. In the year to 31 March 2016, over 140 hectares of new woodland has been created. There are over 400 hectares of new woodland currently being assessed for funding via the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme (GWC) under the RDP.</li> <li>• NRW Glastir Woodlands team verify GWC scheme applications against the UK Forestry Standard, GWC rules and value for money criteria. They have so far verified 97 GWC plans. They provide guidance on their website.</li> <li>• Woodland creation is best facilitated through collaboration. The Welsh Government has launched the Co-operative Forest Planning Scheme and allocated £180,000 to encourage and facilitate co-operation for woodland creation and management.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRW is working with the Welsh Government on a natural benefit accounting framework which will help to optimise the benefits provided by forestry, woodland and trees.</li> <li>• The “Carbon Positive” Project is evaluating NRW’s net carbon status, accounting for both greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration across the whole of NRW’s owned or managed estate. It is identifying mitigation opportunities to reduce NRW’s carbon impact as an organisation and delivering projects to demonstrate these measures. Woodland and peatland habitats make up approximately 84% of the Welsh Government woodland estate, and make significant contributions to the estate’s carbon status. NRW is working with Forest Research and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to better model their carbon stock and sequestration, which will help NRW to plan how best to manage them to protect existing carbon stocks and enhance sequestration eg by expanding woodland.</li> <li>• In the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) (September 2016), “<i>Increasing woodland cover, and bringing more of our existing woodlands into appropriate management</i>” was identified by NRW as one of the seven key opportunities to deal with the challenges and risks identified, and contribute to the well-being goals. However, five of the seven opportunities in SoNaRR are relevant to wider land management decisions, and woodlands / trees play a part in delivery of these.</li> </ul>
<p>4</p>	<p>Manage woodland planting and current and future harvesting programmes to ensure long-term continuity of timber production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following consultation with the sector, NRW has drafted a Timber Marketing Plan for the period 2017-22 which explains their approach to the harvesting and marketing of timber from the Welsh Government woodland estate. NRW has to produce this Plan to help to maintain their certification to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and to ensure that they deliver against the relevant policy objectives set out in <i>Woodlands for Wales</i>. It is awaiting Board approval prior to publication in early 2017.</li> <li>• An Interim Marketing Plan is in place in the meantime and can be accessed through their website.</li> <li>• NRW submitted a discussion paper on “<i>Future timber availability - implications for the forest sector and woodland resource in Wales</i>” for consideration by the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel at their meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This discussion paper addressed a range of issues including: timber availability in the context of the sustainable management of natural resources and the delivery of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals; forecasts of future wood fibre availability and demand in Wales; current management of the Welsh</li> </ul>

		<p>Government woodland estate (restocking levels, harvesting and marketing volumes, silvicultural management systems); current management of woodland in other ownership; and factors affecting woodland area (woodland creation, permanent woodland removal and competing land uses), from a policy, regulatory and management perspective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to an inquiry by the National Assembly for Wales into the public forest estate in Wales in 2014, NRW, Welsh Government and sector representatives produced a '10 Areas for Action' plan in order to improve support for and communications with the private forestry sector.</li> <li>• The 10 Areas for Action was first published in December 2014 and updated in Dec 2015, the 2016 update will be published on the NRW website in December. NRW and the Confederation of Forest Industries (ConFor) are currently undertaking a review of the "10 Areas for Action" document to ensure that successes are recognised and actions remain relevant and are up to date.</li> <li>• NRW has written two Forest Resilience Good Practice Guides on structural diversity and tree species diversity for use by all forest and woodland managers in Wales. These have been approved internally and are awaiting publication. A set of "business rules" are being developed for staff to implement the Guides within their management of the Welsh Government woodland estate. Good progress is being made on a third Guide on how to improve the genetic diversity of Welsh woodlands.</li> <li>• Compensatory planting is a key objective of NRW's Energy Delivery Programme (EDP) to protect the Welsh Government woodland estate in relation to woodland removal and energy developments. There is a ring-fenced fund that is currently £500,000 and will increase annually, to compensate for woodland loss that occurs on the Estate due to energy developments.</li> <li>• NRW will be recruiting a new post with a remit to develop compensatory planting policy, manage this fund and deliver compensatory planting for this programme.</li> <li>• A joint consultation package between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ("Defra"), the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs of the Northern Ireland Executive is to be launched in respect of the transposition of Directive 2014/52/EU in relation to forestry, water resources, land drainage and marine (including harbour works) projects. It is anticipated that the consultation will launch on 13 December.</li> <li>• In brief, the European Directive sets out the procedures to follow before certain projects can be given consent to proceed. This ensures the public have an opportunity to provide their views and information about the likely</li> </ul>
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		<p>significant effects on the environment are considered before a proposed project can be implemented. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regime is a means of assessing the likely significant effects of certain projects on the environment with a view to offsetting adverse effects whilst enhancing positive ones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to forestry projects, implementation of the common changes provides an opportunity to review the screening thresholds for afforestation to encourage woodland creation. The current 5 hectare threshold for non-sensitive areas is low, particularly as most woodland creation comes through controlled or regulated channels, such as Glastir Woodland Creation. Included in the consultation package is reference to a possible increase to the threshold for non-sensitive areas from 5 hectares to 20 hectares or 50 hectares to encourage woodland creation whilst ensuring that larger scale planting with greater environmental sensitivity is still appropriately screened.</li> </ul>
<p>5</p>	<p>Deliver increased and safeguard existing tree cover in towns and cities and support sustainable urban tree management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRW's study 'Tree Cover in Towns and Cities' presented the world's first country-wide survey of urban tree canopy cover. In 2016 with Welsh Government funding, NRW updated the report using recent aerial photography to complete analysis of images from 2006, 2009 and 2013 for 220 urban areas.</li> <li>• The assessment mapped every tree and wood in all 220 urban areas in Wales. NRW are using this survey when working with others to feed important Green Infrastructure messages into plans, policies and strategies and to inform the development of well-being plans.</li> <li>• Wales' mean urban tree canopy was estimated at 16.3% in 2013, which is mid-range when compared to other towns and cities around the world.</li> <li>• Three iTree Eco Studies have been completed in Wales. iTree Eco is a tool for quantifying the functions of urban trees in relation to air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction and flood control. By assessing the values of each function the methodology provides robust basis for management of urban tree populations and the benefits they provide.</li> <li>• Evidence about tree cover in towns and cities and the benefits that trees can provide is a resource for Public Service Boards in taking forward their local well-being plans.</li> <li>• The iTree methodology provides a means of appraising appropriate nature-based solutions to air quality and flood issues. Welsh Government guidance to local authorities includes reference to iTree Eco as an example for inclusion in environmental revenue bids for 2017/18.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good urban tree management practice on the ground is critical to their sustainability and provision of multiple benefits. NRW have supported and contributed to leading technical good practice guidance for urban trees. Produced by the Trees and Design Action Group, the 2 recent publications “Trees in the Townscape” and “Trees in Hard Landscapes” are becoming a benchmark having just won the Landscape Institute Award 2016 for Policy and Research. They are currently in discussion regarding a further publication in this series “Trees in Development and Planning”.</li> <li>• NRW has provided support and advice to Cardiff City Council and Dwr Cymru on tree suitability for the innovative Greener Grangetown project which is retro fitting green infrastructure into Victorian streets to reduce rainfall entering local sewers.</li> </ul>
6	<p>Explore the issues associated with enabling and building the capacity of community groups and enterprises to be involved in woodland management in order to help them use woodlands to realise well-being goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government directly funds Llais y Goedwig, a national network of community woodland groups. As a result two capacity building officers were appointed by Llais y Goedwig in 2016 to broker new agreements between community woodland groups and woodland owners. The officers provide advice and guidance to public and private woodland owners and to community groups in order to establish agreements for activities which can include woodland management, conservation, enhanced access and activities to improve physical and mental health.</li> <li>• Llais y Goedwig have facilitated workshops with NRW on the benefits of enabling community woodland groups to activity manage suitable sites on the Welsh Government woodland estate, particularly sites which are not economically viable to manage intensively for timber but which provide a setting for community involvement and associated wellbeing and social cohesion benefits.</li> <li>• The statistics for community woodland groups affiliated to Llais y Goedwig for 2016 show that there are 76 active woodland community groups managing 1,706 hectares of woodland.</li> <li>• NRW is currently reviewing the process and systems used to issue permissions for activities on the Welsh Government woodland estate.</li> <li>• NRW is undertaking a positions statement review of all recreation and access activities on NRW managed land.</li> <li>• NRW’s new Timber Marketing Plan will provide more scope for communities to use timber.</li> </ul>
7	<p>Promote the uses and utilisation of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In March 2016 Welsh Government (with Wood Knowledge Wales) organised a conference called ‘Wood Build Wales’ and this was well attended by representatives from across</li> </ul>

	<p>Welsh timber, including as an essential material for sustainable construction central to the delivery of new housing.</p>	<p>the timber and forestry sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government and NRW are arranging visits in 2017 to sites and projects that highlight the use of timber in construction.</li> <li>• The NRW Timber Marketing Plan has a commitment to adopting a “carbon hierarchy” of use as a way of comparing the contribution of different wood products to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our marketing. This means that for roadside sales, they will continue to sell and grade out products to suit different markets and encourage the greatest degree of added value in the supply chain eg maximise the availability of timber for use in construction.</li> <li>• NRW has completed an innovations programme (supported by Welsh Government) with two Welsh companies to develop new products that enhance the longevity of wooden fence posts.</li> <li>• NRW are progressing an innovations programme (supported by Welsh Government) with a Welsh company to develop a biochar product which assists regeneration of native species to soils previously inhabited by rhododendron. Early results show positive results where traditional approaches have failed.</li> </ul>
<p>8</p>	<p>Develop models for woodland related enterprises and provide opportunities for employment, education and training across the forestry sector by developing sector relevant skills and providing work experience as pathways to employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Timber Business Investment Scheme has been developed to support investment to bring woodland into management. Round one of the Scheme, which was open for expressions of interest in May 2016, made available £2 million and it attracted 49 applications, 21 of which have progressed to the detailed assessment stage.</li> <li>• Round 2 will open in February 2017 with a further budget of £2 million.</li> <li>• We expect the demand for woodland products generated by this Scheme to lead to new woodland areas coming into management to provide the benefits set out in the Welsh Government’s strategy for woodlands and trees.</li> <li>• ‘Cyfle’ has been established as NRW’s national scheme for the recruitment, co-ordination, support and management of work experience placements (including those on the Welsh Government “Lift” programme), volunteers, under- and post-graduate placements and apprenticeships. It builds on legacy body schemes to offer a single, user-focussed, easy to access entry point for people interested in spending time working and learning alongside NRW staff in a range of settings – with progression opportunities where possible.</li> <li>• As part of the Cyfle Placement Scheme, NRW currently has 4 Trees and Timber apprentices in their first year of study towards a Level 3 qualification.</li> </ul>
<p>9</p>	<p>Examine the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government is developing options to improve</li> </ul>



	adequacy of and scope to improve existing measures and procedures for the protection of valued trees, particularly ancient, veteran and heritage trees.	<p>the protections that can be conferred to ancient, veteran and heritage trees. The options include statutory and non-statutory interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bid has been developed for inclusion in the Government's Legislative Programme to address shortcomings in the Tree Preservation Order regime. No decision has been made as yet, on inclusion in the Legislative Programme.</li> <li>• A strategic analysis of Plantations on Ancient Woodlands (PAWS) threatened sites is being carried by NRW on the Welsh Government woodland estate out with the aim of developing a Wales-wide prioritisation plan.</li> <li>• NRW continues to maintain the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), assessing new evidence provided by owners and managers and reviewing the AWI as necessary in light of this evidence. This information is available publically on the Lle portal.</li> </ul>
10	Continue to bring identified special sites, Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites ("PAWS"), native woodlands and priority habitats into favourable management on WGWE and encourage private landowners to do so.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of the Welsh Government PAWS restoration policy was undertaken by a Task and Finish Group of representatives from the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel (WSAP) which advises Welsh Government on forestry policy.</li> <li>• The review found that while there was no need to change existing PAWS restoration policy, there was a need to be more flexible in the approach to restoration. This was needed to encourage PAWS restoration particularly in the private sector. While it was recognised that all PAWS require a level of restoration and protection, a flexible approach would help to focus limited resources on sites where restoration was more likely to be successful and benefits maximised.</li> <li>• WSAP endorsed the recommendations and this is now the WG approach to PAWS restoration. It is to be rolled out by NRW on the Welsh Government woodland estate and will inform forthcoming grant support mechanisms.</li> <li>• Peatland habitat restoration - NRW are undertaking a programme of tree removal from afforested deep peatland sites where there is a clear ecosystem benefit and it is appropriate and viable to do so.</li> <li>• NRW monitor surveys are taking place to provide data on the condition of the ancient woodland resource on the Welsh Government woodland estate.</li> <li>• Thematic plans have been embedded by NRW into the Welsh Government woodland estate GIS system in order that it is within management programmes and accessible for future reporting.</li> </ul>
11	Develop, promote and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the Welsh deer population is important to ensure that a balance is maintained between the positive</li> </ul>

	<p>implement programmes to manage invasive non-native species which damage woodland habitats.</p>	<p>and negative impacts that deer can have on the environment. The current 5 year “Action Plan for Wild Deer Management in Wales” is under review. It will continue to include actions to promote, manage and monitor non-native deer populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Muntjac deer and grey squirrel are on the list of species of Union concern which forms part of the EU regulation 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). This requires that a species action plan is put in place to set out effective and proportionate management measures. Work to review and update the draft species action plan for Muntjac is ongoing.</li> <li>• For Grey Squirrels, a working group of stakeholders has been set up to examine what appropriate measures should be put in place in Wales to comply with this requirement. This work will form the basis of a Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan for Wales.</li> <li>• NRW is supporting Welsh Government in developing the Management Action Plan for grey squirrels and they continue to work in partnership in all three red squirrel conservation areas to reduce the impact of grey squirrel on red squirrel.</li> <li>• NRW has provided advice to the Welsh Government on the Code of Conduct for species control provisions of the Infrastructure Act.</li> <li>• NRW works in partnership with the Wales Squirrel Forum and they sit on the UK Squirrel Accord.</li> <li>• NRW participate in the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat board, and contributed to the update of the GB strategy in 2015.</li> <li>• NRW’s Board has approved a Position Statement on Conservation Translocations. It will be published in 2017.</li> <li>• NRW has newly appointed staff (Welsh Government funded) to address the issues related to invasive non-native species as recommended by the National Assembly Wales Environment Scrutiny Committee in 2013.</li> </ul>
<p>12</p>	<p>Gather evidence to measure and evaluate the non-timber value of forestry, woodlands and trees in Wales.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An independent review by the Forestry Commission on valuing the social and environmental benefits of forestry has been completed during 2016. Overseen by a steering group including the Welsh Government, the report highlights social and environmental outputs of woodlands as having a much broader role in the economy than is often recognised. While much valuable work has been done to develop the evidence base, further research is needed in certain areas (flood alleviation, water quality, physical and mental health) to better understand the social and economic values woodlands play in these areas.</li> <li>• Welsh Government has collaborated with Forest Research</li> </ul>

		<p>and the Office of National Statistics to explore approaches to improving the evidence base for the economic role of woodlands in Wales including in relation to recreation, air quality improvement and timber supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRW is developing an approach to accounting for the contribution natural resources make to wellbeing in the context of the wider social value of NRW management activities on the Welsh Government woodland estate.</li> <li>• NRW has produced two case studies (Coed Newydd and Llynfi) which explain how woodland contributes to the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals and how the ecosystem services generated may be assessed using natural capital valuation techniques.</li> <li>• Work has commenced on a review of recreational shooting on the Welsh Government woodland estate.</li> </ul>
13	<p>Promote and enhance access to forestry and woodlands for more people to participate in and benefit from outdoor recreation experiences more often. Target resources in areas where the health, well-being and economic benefits will have the greatest impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Government's Natural Resource Policy will take into account the range of ecosystem services of forests, woodlands and trees.</li> <li>• NRW-managed woodlands contain 790km of world class mountain bike trails, 955km of our waymarked permissive paths and 3,702km of forest roads which are well used for walking, cycling and running. NRW continue to maintain these to provide a high quality visitor experience, and duty of care to the public.</li> <li>• During 2016 NRW undertook an internal Business Area Review of recreation and access. The purpose was to provide a rationalised recreation offer for the NRW estate that is focussed on delivering the Recreation and Access Enabling Plan and develop opportunities to maximise commercial income in line with NRW's purpose to further the sustainable management of natural resources.</li> <li>• Welsh Government core funding support for Llais y Goedwig has targeted action for communities to access woodlands in innovative ways and to be involved where appropriate in management activities and decisions.</li> <li>• The Welsh Labour Party Manifesto made a commitment to continue with the Plant! A Tree for Every Child Project. A new phase of delivery (2016-2020) is being taken forward by NRW in partnership with Coed Cadw (the Woodland Trust in Wales). Current planting stands at just under 300,000 native broadleaved trees (137 hectares).</li> <li>• Following their Recreation and Education Business Area Review (BAR), NRW has changed its approach to education and skills but will continue to offer advice and guidance, training for education professionals and resources to enable others to use NRW-managed woodlands.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRW has developed (with stakeholders) a “Trail Users Code” as part of the Countryside Code series. This is currently in publication. NRW continues to implement the recommendations of their Visitor Centre Review.</li> <li>• NRW will be updating and realigning their Enabling Plan over the next year to ensure and strengthen the contribution the Well-being goals and objectives</li> <li>• NRW contributed to the Wales Year of Adventure through their web and social media outlets.</li> <li>• NRW developed and published a suite of Top 10 adventures at sites that they manage and they hosted a range of significant events.</li> <li>• NRW hosted the Welsh Rally in October 2016.</li> <li>• NRW are improving the user experience of their website including the “Out and About” sections which relate to recreation and access opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>14</p>	<p>Participate in the Forestry Governance Project to shape the future delivery of GB cross-border forestry functions ensuring that the needs of Wales, and of the other GB administrations, are accommodated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government is considering the future role of the Forestry Commission in Scotland, with the corollary that cross- border functions are under review.</li> <li>• The Welsh Government is a member of the Forestry Governance Project Board together with the Scottish Government and Defra to ensure that the needs of Wales are accommodated in future arrangements for the delivery of cross-border functions.</li> <li>• NRW provides ongoing support to Welsh Government in relation to the Forestry Governance Project they and maintain their membership of cross-border groups such as the Strategic Publications Group, IFOS Steering Group, Forest Management Officers liaison meeting, <i>Hylobius</i> working group, Science and Innovation Strategy for forestry programme groups.</li> <li>• NRW has worked with the Welsh Government to identify future requirements and options for Wales for cross-border functions currently delivered by the Forestry Commissioners, and exit strategy arrangements from Forestry Commission services. This has included consideration of issues relating to legislation, plant health, the UK Forestry Standard, science and research commissioning, forestry statistics, the UK Woodland Carbon Code, international matters, and strategic publications.</li> </ul>

**An update on the progress made against each of the recommendations from the Environment and Sustainability Committee's Inquiry into Marine Policy in Wales from January 2013**

Recommendation	WG Response – December 2016
<p>Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Welsh Government affords a higher priority to marine policy in Wales.</p>	<p>We are committed to giving marine policy in Wales the priority needed to contribute towards clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas. We have established the marine transition programme to take forward our work on marine and fisheries in an integrated way.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2. By April 2013, we recommend that the Welsh Government publishes an action plan that sets out its priorities for delivering its marine environment duties. This strategy should include an action plan for delivering each duty. We would expect this to include details of the: expected outcomes; specific actions required to achieve the outcomes expected; timescale for delivery, including key milestones; cost of delivery (including resource considerations); and details of where funding will be sourced from.</p>	<p>Welsh Government published a marine and fisheries strategic action plan in November 2013. The plan set out objectives and actions with key milestones for the development and delivery of Welsh Governments marine and fisheries policy.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3. We recommend as part of the process of developing an action plan, resources are carefully considered. The Welsh Government should make use of external expertise where appropriate, but it should also look at whether it needs to better resource itself to deliver on the challenging statutory obligations it faces.</p>	<p>Resources have been kept under review in developing and implementing the marine and fisheries strategic action plan.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. The Welsh Government should review its ICZM strategy as soon as possible, but no later than by April 2014 and ensure that it is considered in the development of marine spatial plans.</p>	<p>The review of the ICZM strategy for Wales and how best to deliver a joined up approach to management of land and sea is being considered as an integral part of the work on marine planning.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5. The Welsh Government should work with partners to identify the existing data sources available to underpin marine planning in Wales. Where opportunities exist, it should work in partnership with industry, university research centres and the Third Sector to coordinate data collection efforts. We expect the pathway to achieving this to be set out in response to Recommendation 2.</p>	<p>Welsh Government has worked collaboratively with a wide range of partners to develop the evidence base for marine planning. The first Wales' marine evidence report was published in 2015. The report was shared widely to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to and understand the evidence base. A marine planning portal</p>

	has been produced which makes available maps and spatial data for Welsh seas. Again, this has been produced in partnership.
<p>Recommendation 6.</p> <p>In preparing marine plans for 2015 the Welsh Government ensures that it is ready to take forward a joint-planning approach in cross-border areas and that it works with the Marine Management Organisation so that it is not deterred from designating a cross-border region with Wales as its next plan area. In order to ensure it is in a position to do this the Welsh Government should seek to have a concordat or Memorandum of Understanding in place with the MMO as soon as possible and no later than December 2014.</p>	<p>Welsh Government is working closely with the MMO to ensure a joined-up approach to planning in cross-border areas. WG and the MMO held a joint stakeholder workshop in March 2016 to discuss evidence, opportunities and issues for cross border areas using the Severn as an example. The MMO participates in Welsh Governments marine planning stakeholder reference group to further support a collaborative and joined up approach to marine planning across England and Wales.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7.</p> <p>By the end of March 2013, the Welsh Government should complete its work on the extension of existing Special Protected Areas. We expect to see details of how this is to be delivered in its response to Recommendation 2 above.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government completed the extensions to three breeding colony Special Protection Areas in October 2014. Further proposals are being considered to extend another site off the coast of Anglesey, and there are also cross border proposals to extend the sites at Skomer and Skokholm and Liverpool Bay into the offshore area.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8.</p> <p>We recommend that the Welsh Government issues a statement outlining how it intends to take forward the recommendations made by CCW in its review of the management of MPAs. It has been considering CCW's review since July 2012 and we expect it to respond within the lifetime of the CCW.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government established the MPA Management Steering Group in March 2014 to consider how best to take forward the recommendations in the CCW report. The purpose of the Group is to steer and champion effective MPA management, raise the profile of MPA management and increase buy-in from management authorities and wider stakeholders across Wales. To date the Steering Group has met seven times.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9.</p> <p>We recommend that the Welsh Government should commence Part V of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. We expect it to set out a date for commencement after it has considered the findings of the [Marine Conservation Zone] task and finish group in April.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government commenced Part V of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 in December 2014.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10.</p> <p>By the 31 December 2013, the Welsh Government</p>	<p>The Welsh Government voluntarily published a report in December 2012 to</p>

<p>should voluntarily lay before the Assembly a report that meets the requirement of section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This report should include an appraisal of the environmental status, governance and enforcement of existing marine protected areas.</p>	<p>comply with section 124 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. A further voluntary report was published in December 2013.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11.  (a) The Welsh Government should engage with the offshore Marine Conservation Zone designation process and facilitate the co-ordination of Welsh stakeholder input to these processes.  (b) When the Secretary of State consults the Welsh Ministers on the proposed creation of a Marine Conservation Zone in Welsh offshore waters, the Welsh Government should inform us in writing of this and set out the steps it intends to take to ensure the UK Government considers Welsh interests.</p>	<p>Since this recommendation was made the draft Wales Bill has been published, which includes provisions to transfer the power to designate Marine Conservation Zones in the offshore area to Welsh Ministers. As a result Defra has announced it is no longer considering any proposals for Marine Conservation Zones in the offshore area, as it will be for Welsh Ministers to decide on the needs of this marine area.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12.  The Welsh Government ensures that the expertise and experience of the Marine Consents Unit is preserved and built upon and that there is no diminution of service during its transition to Natural Resources Wales.</p>	<p>The Marine Licensing Team at Natural Resources Wales has been carrying out marine licensing since April 2013 and following the successful transition has built their own expertise and experience.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13.  The Welsh Government works with Natural Resources Wales to ensure that it develops suitable online provision for a public register for marine licensing.</p>	<p>NRW host an online public register for marine licensing, in line with the requirements set out in The Marine Licensing (Register of Licensing Information) (Wales) Regulations 2011.</p>

**The Welsh Governments' latest position with regards to safeguarding animal welfare for:**

- **Wild animals in circuses**

I have instructed officials to work on introducing a registration or licensing scheme for all animals (domestic and wild) used by Mobile Animal Exhibits (MAEs) in Wales, including circuses and issued a Written Statement on 15 December. A public consultation will be undertaken in Wales early next year.

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2016-new/mobileanimalexhibits/?lang=en>

- **Control of dogs**

Responsible dog ownership is not something that can be achieved by the animal welfare sector alone. A joined up approach across several portfolios is required to see real improvements in Wales. Legislation exists under the UK Governments' 'Dangerous Dogs Act 1991' to cover dogs out of control and especially dangerously out of control where there are grounds for reasonable apprehension dogs will attack people.

Controls were further strengthened by the 'Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014' to events which cause alarm and distress in any place and for attacks on guide dogs, all of which is subject to the enforcement agencies in both England and Wales taking action, including the police.

An RSPCA-led review into responsible dog ownership proceeded in February 2015 and reported on 3 March 2016. The contents of the report were far-reaching and are being considered by officials within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer. Links are being made with officials across Welsh Government whose portfolios are covered in this report e.g. Housing, Education and Health.

On 6 April 2016, the Welsh Government alongside Defra and the Scottish Government introduced compulsory microchipping for all dogs over eight weeks of age, unless exempted by a vet. In 2008, under the 'Animal Welfare Act 2006', the Welsh Government produced a Code of Practice for owners and keepers of dogs. The Code is used routinely for education and enforcement purposes by Local Authorities and organisations such as the RSPCA. A review is now being undertaken to ensure that the standards being advised are still appropriate.

- **Control of horses**

The Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014 came into effect on 28 January 2014 following Royal Assent. The legislation provides all local authorities in Wales with the same legal powers to seize, impound, sell, dispose of and destroy where appropriate horses by humane means after certain notifications and time limits are met, when horses are on land without lawful authority or occupier consent.



Fly Grazing is in simple terms the actions of irresponsible owners who intentionally or negligently permit their horses to graze on land where they do not have the consent of the landowner or where that consent has been withdrawn and the horse owner has refused to move them. Fly grazing is often accompanied by implied threats, fear, reprisals and intimidation as well as wilful neglect and animal cruelty.

### **Update**

- During the first 12 months of the Act as least 11 local authorities have used the powers contained within the Act to seize some 460 horses.
- Easy to follow guidance for Local authorities and others including horse owners, has been developed to support the Act.
- The Welsh Government has supported a number of local authorities through the provision of match funding to enable the removal and disposal of horses and ponies found fly grazed or abandoned on land without lawful authority. This support has been given on a case by case basis and following the receipt of a detailed business case supporting the course of action to be taken.
- It is believed that even the availability of, and the potential threat of the use of, the Act is changing the behaviour of those owners who have previously been inclined to fly graze their animals because the likely risk of sanction is now much greater.
- A review of the Act is planned to commence early in 2017.

- **Exotic pets**

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group was provided with a briefing on exotic pets in December 2015. Its members are due to meet with an exotic pet specialist from the British Veterinary Association at a forthcoming meeting. The consideration of issues relating to the exotic pet trade in Wales comes under the responsible ownership agenda, which the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group has set out in the Implementation Plan for 2016/17.

Within the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan, a commitment exists to review the Welsh Government's Codes of Practice as published under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This includes considering whether additional Codes of Practice are required for other species, for example exotic animals.

Work is underway in England to review the licensing of Animal Establishments, including pet shops. The Welsh Government is maintaining a watching brief as this policy develops.

**Further to your announcement on 31 October 2016 to proceed with the preparation of new legislation to permit scalloping in Cardigan Bay, please can let us know what assessments (economic, social and environmental) were undertaken to inform this decision, in addition to the scientific research studies by Bangor University? Please can you advise the Committee of the anticipated timeframes and next steps to opening the fishery?**

**Detail on what assessments (economic, social and environmental) were undertaken to inform this decision, in addition to the scientific research studies by Bangor University**

In respect of the socio-economic assessment, the figures quoted in the consultation document and to my recent statement were based on the economic value of the fishery based on recent years and landings. One of the key objectives of the proposals is to maintain and enhance the socio-economic value of the fishery. A Task & Finish Group will consider opportunities to enhance the value through interventions such as secondary processing of the catch within Wales and adding value to products.

**Detail on the anticipated timeframes and next steps to opening the fishery**

The Welsh Government is committed to a co-management approach to the development of new management measures for the scallop fishery, which we hope to secure through effective engagement with all relevant interests. This is fundamental to the approach, and a key part of our obligations under the Wellbeing of Future Generations and Environment Acts. The exact detail is yet to be developed through this partnership approach.

We are in the process of establishing a Task & Finish Group which will be involved with considering the detail and technical aspects of the permit scheme. The group will also consider requests for additional evidence/studies to enhance the fishery. At present we are finalising membership and the Terms of Reference for this group and the first meeting will be convened in the first two weeks of January. This group will report its findings via the Wales Marine & Fisheries Advisory Group and Wales Marine Stakeholder Advisory Group.

## **The timetable and progress of implementation plans for legislation falling within your portfolio.**

### **Implementation and monitoring of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

The Act comprises seven key parts and will mean significant economic, social and environmental benefits for Wales. It has been designed to support and complement our work to help secure Wales' long-term well-being, so current and future generations benefit from a prosperous economy, a healthy and resilient environment and vibrant, cohesive communities.

Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a clear and iterative national delivery framework:

- The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), assesses the state of natural resources through the presentation of up-to-date evidence.

NRW launched the first report under this requirement on 3 October 2016. The report takes a ground breaking approach, looking at how our natural resources and ecosystems contribute in many ways to our well-being and the opportunities they provide to tackle key challenges around health, poverty and our economy, and deliver win-win benefits. It forms a national evidence base for policy and decision-makers on the sustainable management of natural resources, including through the public sector delivery framework provided by the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

- The national Natural Resources Policy (NRP), to be published by Welsh Ministers in March 2017, will identify the priorities and opportunities for managing Wales' natural resources, having regard to the evidence provided by the SoNaRR, and other evidence.

The consultation on the development of the NRP was launched on 14 November and will close on 13 February 2017. The Cabinet Secretary wrote to Cabinet colleagues to bring this to their attention. A stakeholder workshop was held 7 December in relation to this consultation.

The consultation document proposes three priority themes, which Welsh Ministers can use to address sustainable management of natural resources:

- Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation.
- Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources.
- Improving community and individual well being by taking a place and landscape based approach

The NRP will identify where Wales' natural resources can continue to support Welsh Government's objectives for Wales' prosperity and realise the significant opportunities they provide to deliver a secure, healthy and active, ambitious, learning, united and connected nation.

Crucially, the NRP will support the Cabinet Secretary's Roundtable meetings and associated stakeholder workshops on Brexit by playing a key role in ensuring that Wales can benefit from the significant opportunities that the better management of our natural resources can provide in parallel with addressing the clear challenges we face.

- Area statements, to be produced by NRW, will implement the national policy at a local level.

Once the Natural Resources Policy is published in March 2017, NRW must prepare and publish area statements for the areas of Wales that it considers appropriate for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the NRP.

### **Reducing carbon emissions**

The Act also puts in place a statutory approach to reducing carbon emissions in Wales by at least 80% by 2050. The first phase of the programme to March 2019 will focus on setting up the emission reduction framework. A cross-Government programme has been established and the UK Committee on Climate Change has been appointed to provide statutory advice to Wales. We are currently looking at the options available as to how we account for emissions in Wales. The Act established a robust statutory monitoring framework, with Ministers required to report at the beginning of each budget period, and a final statement for each budgetary period laid before the National Assembly for Wales.

### **Carrier bag provisions**

Two carrier bag provisions were included in the Act – to set a charge for certain types of carrier bags such as bags for life and to place a duty on retailers to donate the proceeds. It is not the intention to enact the first of these until there is sufficient evidence to show these types of bags have a detrimental impact on the environment. My officials are working with representatives from the relevant sectors on the second provision. We intend to consult on proposals early in 2017. The Welsh Government will conduct a review once those elements are fully embedded.

### **Waste collection**

We intend to bring in subordinate legislation to require businesses to present their waste separately for collection and for waste collectors to do so by separate collection. The legislation will ban businesses from disposing of food waste into sewers and ban recyclable waste from incineration. Further subordinate legislation will ban recyclable materials from going to landfill. We plan to consult in 2017 with a view to introducing it in 2018. Reviewing progress on these matters will be an ongoing process and the legislation will be subject to further detailed Regulatory Impact Assessment which will set out monitoring arrangements and timescale.

### **Shellfishery management**

The Act enables Welsh Ministers to comply with statutory environmental obligations, whilst creating economic development opportunities for sustainable shellfishery management in Wales. These new powers help us to ensure no harm comes to a European Marine Site through a shellfishery's operation. The Welsh Ministers can make Several and Regulating Orders. These enable us to establish and cultivate shellfish thus creating employment, and to regulate a natural fishery by issuing permits respectively.

There are relatively few active Several or Regulating Orders in Welsh waters, or applications for new ones. Our Better Fisheries Project is taking forward developing and consulting on the regulations and associated the guidance. The cross-sector Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group is informing how the workstreams are prioritised. The Group will be discussing this further in January 2017, including considering fisheries legislation and regulations. Once these are implemented, day to day compliance with the regulations will be monitored by my officials, with further advice from the Wales Marine Advisory Group.

### **Marine licensing**

Fees and charging powers for marine licensing will be implemented through secondary legislation and recouped by NRW, acting under the delegated powers of the Welsh Ministers' as licensing authority. A public consultation runs until 28 November, after which the final proposals will be refined, if necessary. We expect to introduce and implement the necessary commencement order from April 2017. The marine licensing service and associated fees will be monitored regularly and we intend to carry out a review every three years.

### **Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee**

A Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee will be established in 2017 to replace the Flood Risk Management Wales Committee, which will be abolished at the same time. A twelve week consultation on the proposals was held from August to November and a Government response will be drafted shortly, to be followed by the necessary secondary legislation in the New Year. We expect the new Committee to be operational for the new financial year of 2017/18. The new Committee's performance will be subject to monitoring to ensure it is effective.

In taking forward the Act, the Welsh Government as a whole will also monitor and evaluate policy delivery against departmental objectives, as part of the wider implementation of the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act.

### **Planning (Wales) Act 2015**

The co-ordinated and phased approach to delivering the improvements and supporting subordinate legislation from the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 is set out in the Positive Planning Implementation Plan (December 2015). Progress updates on its implementation has been provided in April 2016 and in a written statement I made on 14 July 2016. Links to these documents are provided below:

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/legislation/planning-wales-act-2015/positive-planning-implementation-plan/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2016-new/58437974/?lang=en>

Excellent progress has been made to implement the Act, with three quarters of its provisions now fully or partially in force. These include:

- Improvements to the development management system, which will assist Local Planning Authorities to demine planning applications in a timely manner.
- Improvements to the enforcement system to remove delays.
- Provisions enabling Local Planning Authorities to bring forward Strategic Development Plans.
- The introduction of a new planning application process to enable the Welsh Ministers to determine Developments of National Significance.

Work has also started on the National Development Framework, with the recent publication of the Statement of Public Participation and call for evidence and projects, which can be accessed using the following links:

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/national-development-framework-for-wales/statement-of-public-participation/?lang=en&>

<http://gov.wales/topics/planning/national-development-framework-for-wales/call-for-evidence-and-projects/?lang=en&>

Remaining provisions of the Act will be implemented in the near future with improvements to the appeals system and changes to the structure of planning committees being introduced in spring 2017.

