

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mick Antoniw MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

15 July 2020

Dear Mick

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2020, regarding the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2020. You have requested clarification of the Welsh Government's response to technical reporting point 2, on the accommodation offset allowance.

Article 2 of the Order refers to a dwelling house or self-contained accommodation that an agricultural worker is required to live in for the proper or better performance of their duties. It is not a requirement that a house for this purpose is provided on site, however, location of accommodation and proximity to the agricultural worker's place of work will be a significant factor in facilitating the 'proper or better performance of duties'.

Using stockpersons as an example, who may be required to work long or anti-social hours and respond to emergencies, living on or near their place of work would clearly be of considerable benefit. This would have been the case historically, and is still the case today.

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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.

I have noted the Committee's comments and will share the comments with the Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales. The Panel's functions include reviewing the agricultural minimum wage regime and preparing draft agricultural wages orders for approval by the Welsh Ministers. The Panel has acknowledged the structure and provisions of the agricultural wages orders should be reviewed to ensure they continue to reflect the needs of today's agricultural industry. The Panel Chair has indicated this work, including a review of the accommodation offset allowance, will take place in September.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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