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**Lesley Griffiths MS**

Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

23 November 2020

Dear Lesley,

**Interim arrangements for environmental governance following the end of the Implementation Period**

Further to your appearance before the Committee on 12 November 2020, and following the recent publication of your written statement on the Environmental Governance Stakeholder Task Group ('the Task Group') Report, Members agreed I should write to you to follow up on a number of matters.

Based on our ongoing exchanges, we had anticipated that the Task Group's report, and your subsequent response to that report, would help provide much needed clarity on the Welsh Government's agreed approach to interim environmental governance arrangements. Regrettably, this is not the case.

We note that the Task Group's report does not address the matter of interim measures. It does, however, explain that the Task Group submitted proposals for interim measures to you in October 2019. We are disappointed that you did not see fit to share the proposals with us, and that you have not publicly responded to those proposals.

**1. We would like you to share with us a copy of the Task Group's proposals for interim measures, set out in its October 2019 submission to you.**

**2. We would like you to provide a copy of your response to those proposals.**

We note that you intend to establish an 'interim complaints system', operational from 1 January 2021, and that you are in the process of recruiting an Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales.



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**3. We would like you to provide a detailed explanation of the interim complaints system and how it will work in practice.**

**4. We would like you to clarify whether and what other interim measures will be put in place beyond the complaints system to help address the governance gaps arising at the end of the Implementation Period.**

We would appreciate a response from you no later than **Monday 7 December 2020** so that we can take account of it in our questioning when you next appear before us on 10 December 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Mike Hedges MS  
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

