



Mike Hedges AS/MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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18 December 2020

Dear Mike

Further to my letter of 13 November, I am now in a position to update you on a number of points in relation to the Hazardous Substances Draft Framework. The following information updates the responses I previously gave:

Scrutiny process and timelines

9. Can you confirm that the framework will comprise the provisional FOA, the Concordat and the updated MOU referred to in the draft FOA?

The MoU referred to in the provisional FOA relates to the COMAH Regulations which is not part of this framework. Since I previously replied, it has been agreed we will no longer pursue a concordat. The framework will therefore solely consist of the text set out in the provisional FOA, with the operative parts to note being sections 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13.

10. Can you clarify whether the Concordat and the updated MOU will be available for Senedd scrutiny?

A concordat is no longer proposed.

11. Can you clarify the timeline for Senedd scrutiny of the provisional FOA and associated documents?

As with the other frameworks, the Senedd will have time to consider this fully in 2021.

Monitoring and review arrangements for the framework

13. Can you clarify whether a report of the review meeting between the UK administrations will be made publicly available?

The review of the framework will involve stakeholders so it is anticipated a report of the review meeting will be made publically available.

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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.

14. Can you explain in what circumstances would it not be appropriate to involve stakeholders in the review process for the framework?

We intend to involve stakeholders in the review but as with all engagement work the process should be proportionate to the issues being considered. If very few issues have been raised in relation to hazardous substances planning in the period before the review, this would suggest a less formal approach to review would be appropriate.

15. Can you confirm whether and how the Senedd will be able to contribute to the review process for the framework?

It is not anticipated that the Committee will be formally invited to participate in the review process. Members of the Senedd however would be able to engage in the same way as other stakeholders.

I hope the above responses provide you with additional information to assist in the scrutiny of the Draft Framework. Please be assured that when we have reached a decision collaboratively with the other administrations regarding the framework review process and the final format of the Framework, the Committee will be updated.

Yours sincerely



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government

Cc: Counsel General