

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MA/LW/3533/21

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

19 November 2021

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you for the report of the Climate Change Environment & Infrastructure Committee's pre-appointment hearing with my preferred candidate for Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW). I am pleased you find Dr Clubb to be suitable for the role.

I have noted the issues raised in the report and would like to re-assure you, on a number of points. I took the decision to make a direct appointment, to ensure that NICW is able to make a timely contribution to the action Wales needs to take on climate change. However, I requested your input before confirming Dr Clubb's appointment because any reservations you may have had about Dr Clubb's ability to undertake the role could have implications for the reputation of the NICW. Dr Clubb, as chair designate, had engaged with members of NICW and its secretariat, with my agreement to ensure he understood the role and would be able to deliver on the identified priorities.

With regard to appointable candidates from the 2019 campaign, I was not party to the recruitment campaign, but have been informed, no candidates were appointed due to a shift in focus, at the end of 2019, to prioritise responding to the climate change emergency. As this had not formed part of the original campaign the decision was to rerun the campaign early in 2020, this was delayed due to the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Finally, I welcome your commitment to both inviting the chair annually to explore progress and note your comments about the status of NICW. There are significant constraints towards delivering an independent public body in the current economic environment. These constraints particularly relate to governance arrangements and costs. However, in principle,

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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.

the Welsh Government could be open to considering the need for a more delivery focused body in the future and to reviewing the status and remit of the infrastructure commission.

I will be writing to Dr Clubb to formally offer him the role and hope to make a statement on this shortly

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Lee Waters AS/MS

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