

Julie James MS
Minister for Climate Change

22 November 2021

Dear Julie,

Reviewing Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales – A climate adaptation plan for Wales

At our 11 November meeting, we received a presentation from Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Chair of the Adaptation Committee of the Climate Change Committee ('the CCC'), on the CCC's Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Technical Report and Advice Report, published in June 2021.

The CCC's Advice Report makes for sobering reading. It throws into sharp focus the challenge that lies ahead for the Welsh Government to ensure that Wales is protected from the worst effects of climate change.

During our discussion with Baroness Brown, she explained the Adaptation Committee has not, to date, had a role in assessing the Welsh Government's climate adaptation plan *Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales* ('the adaptation plan') or progress towards implementation of that plan. However, she said the Adaptation Committee would be open to undertaking such work, should the Welsh Government request it to do so.

We believe an independent assessment by the Adaptation Committee would provide important external scrutiny that would otherwise be missing from the review process.

- Can you clarify whether, how and when, you intend to involve the Adaptation Committee in reviewing the current adaptation plan?

On a related matter, according to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework accompanying the adaptation plan, the Welsh Government's Climate Change Portfolio Governance Board (CCPG) meets regularly to discuss progress in delivering commitments set out in the plan and in *Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales* (superseded by *Net Zero Wales Caron Budget 2 (2021 to 2025)*). It goes on to state

the CCPG “in turn **reports to the Climate Change subject committee of the Senedd** (emphasis added), and the Cabinet of Welsh Government”.

- Can you clarify how and when the Committee can expect to receive its first progress report from CCPG, and how regularly reports will be provided thereafter?

Finally, we note that, in May 2021, the CCC wrote to the Welsh Government to advise it would be changing its practice in relation to its annual UK-wide Progress Report to the UK Parliament. The letter suggests the CCC could not include 2019 Welsh emissions data in the latest UK Progress Report (June 2021) because it was not published in time. The CCC explains that, for future years, the Welsh emissions data will not be included in UK Progress Reports unless it is made available with sufficient time for analysis. We understand the CCC wrote in similar terms to the other devolved administrations.

- Can you share your response to the CCC with us, and publish it on the Welsh Government’s website?
- Can you clarify what this will mean in practice and whether you are satisfied that this will have no impact on the Senedd’s ability to scrutinise the Welsh Government’s progress on emissions reduction?

I should be grateful if you would respond to the above as soon as possible, and by 6 December 2021 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.