

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,  
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

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**Economy, Trade and  
Rural Affairs Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**

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**Welsh Parliament**

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Lesley Griffiths MS  
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales,  
and Trefnydd

30 November 2021

Dear Minister,

I am disappointed you do not feel able to give evidence to the Committee next week. As you mention, in June the Senedd voted unanimously to instruct a Committee to “urgently review” the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

I have felt the weight of that instruction acutely – ensuring that once the Committee was established we turned our eyes to this work immediately. The first consultation the Committee launched, and the first evidence panel we held, were both part of our review of these Regulations.

I accept that the court case adds a level of complexity to our review. However, we have already held three good quality evidence sessions with Natural Resources Wales, the farming unions and environmental organisations.

When deciding how and when we should embark on this review, I was informed the court case could take a year, and it was highly likely the losing party would appeal adding further length and uncertainty as to when we could take forward Plenary’s instruction. Whilst it would have been easy to postpone the whole review until the case was heard, I was concerned this would not meet the request from the Senedd to look at the matter urgently.



To avoid prejudicing the court case I have ensured that the Committee sticks to the policy supporting the Regulations and does not stray into their lawfulness. Clearly this is a matter for the courts, however scrutiny of the policy is a matter for this Committee.

As it is unclear exactly when the Court will hand down its judgment, I am concerned that your decision to not attend will potentially add months to the timeframe for this review. If there is an appeal, then there could be an even longer delay. As such, and taking into account the above, I would urge you to reconsider your position and attend our meeting on 9th December.

Thank you for offering to instruct your officials to liaise with the Committee's clerk, I would welcome that.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'D'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.