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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter of 22 November, which raised a number of questions relating to climate change.

I am pleased the CCEI committee had the opportunity to hear from Baroness Brown about the findings of the CCC's third Climate Risk Independent Assessment. I share your concerns about the very significant challenges for Wales arising from the changing climate and I am grateful to the CCC's Adaptation Committee for their advice.

Our current five year adaptation plan, *Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales*, is already in its second year of delivery. We have taken forward a number of significant, strategic and interlinked policies that are helping to establish a robust framework for climate change adaptation in Wales. These include publication of the updated National Development Framework, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, Water Resource Management Plans, National Peatland Action Programme, Area Statements, and development of the new Sustainable Farming Scheme.

We welcome and accept in full the CCC's latest advice. We acknowledge that far more action is needed, in Wales and across the UK, to address the areas of risk they have highlighted. We are determined to meet that challenge, and to do so in a way that ensures the impacts of climate change, and of any policy measures we take, are managed fairly across our society.

It is correct to say that under current arrangements, the CCC have no statutory role to review our adaptation plan and we have not yet asked for their assessment of our progress. However, the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for *A Climate Conscious Wales* specifies that our second progress report, due to be published in year 4 of the plan (2024), will be informed by an external review, which would in all likelihood be requested from the CCC.

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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.

Ahead of this, my officials are currently in the process of reviewing our policy approach for climate change adaptation in the light of the updated evidence from the CCC. This includes consideration of potential changes to our future monitoring and reporting regime and the possibility of additional Wales-specific reporting by the CCC. I shall, of course, update the CCEI Committee on any changes.

Turning to the related matter of governance of our work on climate change, you referenced the work undertaken by the Climate Change Portfolio Board to oversee delivery of the mitigation and adaptation plans. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework document which accompanies *Prosperity for all: a climate conscious Wales* sets out that the Board meets regularly to discuss progress and in turn, they report to the climate change subject committee of the Senedd, alongside Cabinet. It goes on to set out that at the end of year 2, an output report will be agreed with the Board before it is submitted to me and published. I would expect to discuss that report with this Committee.

Given the focus which has been applied by the Committee to climate mitigation over the last few months, I understand and welcome the Committee's interest in other aspects of the climate emergency.

Finally, you mentioned the letter from the CCC to Welsh Government regarding Welsh emissions data in the annual UK-wide Progress Report. The issue arises because Welsh emissions data is released after the CCC has to finalise its UK progress report but before it is published. The same issue affects Scotland and Northern Ireland. This means that in practice the progress report quotes the most recent UK emissions data but quotes data from the other nations from the year before. The UK data is published earlier in the year than that of the other nations.

We have not issued a written response to the CCC's letter regarding the inclusion of Welsh emissions data in the CCC's annual UK progress report. Instead we have discussed the issue with the CCC's secretariat.

The Senedd is able to access the latest Welsh emissions data at the same time as it is able to read the CCC's UK progress report. I am therefore satisfied that this has no impact on the Senedd's ability to scrutinise Wales's progress on emissions reduction. It would, however, clearly be preferable for the report to include all the data for the same year. The UK and nations' data is managed under a UK Government contract, which determines when the Welsh data is produced and therefore available for us to publish. We continue to seek a resolution between the UK and Devolved Governments on this matter.

Yours sincerely



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