

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

14 December 2021

Dear Julie,

### Future funding for Natural Resources Wales

The Welsh Government is scheduled to publish its draft budget for 2022-23 next week. Ahead of publication, we would like to set out our expectation for an increase in Natural Resources Wales' ('NRW') budget from 2021-22.

Between its inception in 2013 and 2020, NRW's funding fell in real-terms by 35%. The impact of this on NRW's ability to carry out its role and responsibilities effectively was a matter of ongoing concern for our predecessor Committee. Our recent work on priorities for the Sixth Senedd provides a clear indication that stakeholders from across sectors share this concern.

We note that Natural England received a substantial uplift of £63 million in its budget for 2021-22 following the UK Government's Spending Review. The Sixth Senedd coincides with a critical period in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Natural Resources Wales will be expected to be at the forefront of action to respond to these challenges. It must be fully resourced to do this.

We believe the start of the Sixth Senedd provides an ideal opportunity for the Welsh Government to reverse the trend of NRW funding cuts. We hope to see this put into practice in the forthcoming draft budget.

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.