

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Chair

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales

9 February 2022

Dear Huw,

Further to my letter of 4 January, and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was held on 31 January.

The meeting was attended by Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands, Scottish Government; Lorna Slater MSP (Chair), Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity, Scottish Government; Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland Executive; and George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government. Lord Malcom Offord, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland and David TC Davies MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales were also in attendance.

At the meeting we discussed Scottish Government's request for an exclusion to the Internal Market Act for single use plastics where I pressed UK Government to provide a timetable for decisions on this matter. The Northern Ireland Executive gave a presentation on their consultation for their future agriculture policy.

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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.

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Supply chains and labour shortages within the EFRA sectors was discussed, where I reiterated my concerns about shortages in veterinary staff, in particular, those needed by APHA and for future border checks at Welsh ports and the Northern Ireland Protocol, where I pressed for clarity on whether interim measures at Irish-facing ports would be needed.

There were a number of areas of AOB items including an update on the publication timeline of Common Frameworks, the Dimpleby Report, RCVS proposals regarding veterinary reform, seed potatoes, and the Brexit Freedoms Bill. Both frameworks and the Brexit Freedoms Bill will be substantive items at the next IMG to be held on 21 March 2022.

A communique will be published on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communique-from-the-inter-ministerial-group-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs>.

I am copying this letter to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee and to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Regards,

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