

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,  
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

—  
**Climate Change, Environment,  
and Infrastructure Committee**

Julie James MS  
Minister for Climate Change

21 April 2022

Dear Minister,

You will be aware that one of the Committee's strategic priorities for the Sixth Senedd is 'protecting and enhancing the natural environment'. In order to inform our future work in this area, it would be helpful if you could provide a response to the questions set out below.

### COP15

We are aware that the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been subject to further delay and is now likely to take place in August 2022.

1. Can you clarify whether and how the Welsh Government will be represented at COP15?
2. Can you outline the Welsh Government's ambitions for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and how it is seeking to influence the outcome of COP15?

### Deep dive on biodiversity and statutory biodiversity targets

You told us the Deep Dive on biodiversity "will be initiated after the February half term with a view to completing the in depth discussions in May". You also committed to sharing the Terms of Reference for the Deep Dive with us. The Terms of Reference have yet to be made available.

3. Can you provide an update on progress towards the Deep Dive, including membership of the group who will be taking this work forward?

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You told us officials “have been working with other UK counterparts through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group and JNCC to develop a common set of principles”.

4. Can you provide further details of this work, including the purpose of the common set of principles, and whether and how they will be used to inform statutory biodiversity targets and shape future policy?

#### Environmental principles and governance

We note you have produced guidance on the environmental principles to ensure they are incorporated into policy and decision making across Welsh Government.

5. Can you clarify whether the guidance is publicly available?

You told us officials have continued to work on the development of a permanent approach to environmental governance in Wales, and that the approach will be subject to further engagement with stakeholders.

6. Can you provide an indicative timeline for the consultation on proposals for permanent environmental governance arrangements?

#### Natural Resources Policy

The Environment (Wales) Act 2015 places a requirement on the Welsh Minister to review the national natural resources policy (currently the **Natural Resources Policy** (NRP)) after each general election.

7. Can you provide an update on progress towards reviewing the NRP, including an indicative timeline you are working towards for the publication of a revised NRP?

I should be grateful if you could respond to the above as soon as possible, and by 19 May at the latest.

Yours sincerely,



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