

Andrew RT Davies

Aelod o'r Senedd dros
Ganol De Cymru

Member of the Senedd for
South Wales Central

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.cymru

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
AndrewRT.Davies@senedd.wales

0300 200 7233 

@andrewrt.davies 

@AndrewRTDavies 

/AndrewRTDaviesAM 

25th May 2022

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee to raise concerns I and others have over the Welsh Government's acquisition of Gilestone Farm in Powys.

While I am immensely proud of the cultural and economic footprint of the Green Man Festival, the acquisition of Gilestone Farm on the premise of an exclusive business relationship between Welsh Government and Green Man, to sell the freehold or secure a tenancy on that property, is a matter of concern, particularly given the absence of a business case.

There are three areas that I believe warrant further investigation:

1. In the First Minister's own words, Green Man are a 'trusted partner', and the implications of that status in regards to the release of public funds are unclear. Indeed, is it now Government policy to identify businesses with 'trusted partner' status?
2. The policy governing the planning and execution of the decision making process that allowed the acquisition of Gilestone Farm, an asset now earmarked for Green Man, in the absence of a business case.
3. What policy is the Welsh Government now working to, given the implication, by the Economy Minister, that there was some risk of Green Man leaving Wales if the Welsh Government did not purchase Gilestone Farm and make it exclusively available to Green Man for purchase or tenancy, and will there be similar courses of action for other businesses?

The circumstances around the purchase of Gilestone Farm appear to constitute a major shift in policy from Welsh Government on the process for releasing taxpayer money and for offering support to businesses.

Therefore, I would recommend that you and committee colleagues consider carrying out a short, sharp inquiry into the processes and circumstances surrounding the purchase of Gilestone Farm.

I have also written the Mark Isherwood, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, inviting his committee to consider opening an inquiry into this subject.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

Andrew



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament