

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith /
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Adferiad Gwyrdd a Mesurau llywodraethu amgylcheddol dros dro/
Green Recovery and Interim environmental governance arrangements
GR / IEG 01
Ymateb gan Yr Athro Steve Ormerod, Ysgol Biowyddorau Caerdydd
Evidence from Professor Steve Ormerod, Cardiff School of Biosciences

Interim Environmental Governance Measures

Having sat on the initial WG panel – chaired by Bob Lee – and having met once informally with the Interim Environmental Governance Assessor (IEGA), my areas of interest are in:

i) The time and resources given to the role (2-3 days per month) relative to the function – prior to the UK exiting the EU - that this office was designed to replace

ii) Again relative to the EU functions that this office replaced, the stated aims of the assessor to:

- “• provide oversight of the functioning of environmental law in Wales; and
- to consider systemic issues relating to the working or functioning of environmental law in Wales.

But not

- “• breaches in environmental law;
- areas of non-compliance of environmental law”

iii) The relationship with the OEP in England and ESS in Scotland

iv) Whether there are lessons to learn from the submissions received – dominantly on forestry, water quality, , hedgerows, wildlife, nature and planning designations (SSSIs)

v) Whether there are generic actions that stem from iv) that Wales should address

On Green Recovery:

My specific interest is in support for the environmental sector in Wales following roles over the last 25 years in senior governance roles in this sector including as Chairman of RSPB Cymru, Chairman of RSPB Council, RSPB Vice-President and Chairman of the European Invertebrate Charity, Buglife. I am also currently chairing a committee, on behalf of NRA, seeking to enable the environmental sector. I sit also of the panel helping the Minister for Climate Change in the Biodiversity Deep Dive.

Specific points of interest are in:

1. The roles and functions of the environmental sector in addressing the Nature and Climate Emergencies – and more latterly what will become the outputs from the Biodiversity Deep Dive
2. The roles and functions of the environmental sector in green recovery
3. Support, resourcing and funding of the environmental sector – and the specific role of the Welsh Government
4. The actions needed within the environmental sector that best enable to access support
5. The development of skills in Wales to best support the environmental sector as the economy develops towards addressing the nature and climate emergencies in future