

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

4 August 2022

Dear Huw,

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I wish to notify you a further meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was held on 20 July at the Royal Welsh Show.

The meeting was attended by Edwin Poots MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland Government; George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government; David TC Davies MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales; Lord Malcom Offord, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the Scotland Office; Mairi McAllan, Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Scottish Government; Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, Scottish Government.

I chaired the IMG where I presented on Welsh Government's proposals for a Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Ministers also discussed the implications of the invasion of Ukraine and wider increased costs on agri businesses, including a presentation on the modelling of the impact of agri-inflation in Wales. I noted Governments were working well at official level and suggested it would be good if Governments could do more modelling and analysis together. I also raised with the UK Government whether actions could be taken forward on VAT on red diesel and fertiliser.

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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.



A discussion of retained EU Law and the proposed Brexit Freedoms Bill followed where the UK Government outlined the rationale for the legislation. Concerns were raised regarding how devolved aspects of the Bill would be addressed. The Gene Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill was also discussed, particularly, the implications for Devolved Administrations and the need for much greater engagement.

Ministers then discussed the development of the borders Target Operating Model for future border checks with a particular emphasis on timescales for implementation, the importance of biosecurity and the proposed trusted trader approach.

The UK Government also provided an update on progress regarding the negotiations for the Convention of Biological Diversity COP 15 and the planned summit in Montreal later this year.

Finally, the UK Government confirmed the exclusion to the Internal Market Act on single use plastics had now been granted.

We agreed our next meeting would be held on Monday 12 September in Scotland.

A communique regarding this meeting 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.

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Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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