

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

SeneddLJC@Senedd.Wales

20 October 2022

Dear Huw

Agricultural Wages (No.2) (Wales) Order 2022

Thank you for letter dated 6 October 2022 regarding the Agricultural Wages (No.2) (Wales) Order 2022. I note you have further questions arising from the response Welsh Government provided to the second and third technical reporting points which the LJCC previously raised.

Definition of the term 'apprenticeship framework'

Welsh Government accepts the use of the phrase '*published by Lantra on or before the date that this Order comes into force*' would help to avoid any doubt, notwithstanding Welsh Government is satisfied the use of the word 'current' is appropriate. On that basis, it is therefore proposed this amendment will be discussed and agreed with the Panel and the amended wording will be included in the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2023, which it is anticipated will come into force on 1 April 2023.

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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.

In the meantime, the Committee may be interested and reassured to know there have not been any concerns raised about clarity of the definition of 'apprenticeship framework' in the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2022. I can also reassure the Committee the Panel and Welsh Government were aware of all the apprenticeship frameworks published by Lantra at the time the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2022 came into force (and therefore aware of those frameworks which would be covered by the definition of 'apprenticeship framework' contained within the Order). The most recently published Lantra framework was published in 2021 and we understand a further review is not now planned by Lantra until 2024.

Statutory duties imposed on agricultural workers by Article 10 of the Order

I am grateful to the LJCC for raising this point. I consider this a matter which will need to be discussed by policy officials and the Panel as part of their discussions in relation to the Agricultural Wages (Wales) Order 2023. Whilst I appreciate this does not immediately address the points raised by the LJCC, it is worth noting that Article 10 has been in place since the first Agricultural Wages Order was introduced in 2016. It is in place to ensure the smooth operation of payment of agricultural wages at the appropriate grade and to date has not proved contentious, but it will be a matter we will review.

Regards

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

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