

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](mailto:Huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales)

11 November 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 7 November.

The meeting was chaired by Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity from Scottish Government. The meeting was also attended by Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands, Scottish Government; Therese Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, UK Government; Mark Spencer MP, Minister of State for Food, UK Government; John Lamont MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, UK Government; James Davies MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, UK Government; and Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary, DAERA in the absence of NI ministers.

This was the first IMG since the Royal Welsh Show in July, with September and October being cancelled due to changes in UK Government.

At the meeting we discussed the Retained EU Law (Reform and Revocation) Bill, including the current status of the Bill, and in particular Defra's plans for managing the over 600 pieces of legislation in the portfolio.

We then discussed borders and I requested an update on the Target Operating Model and outlined my continuing concerns over ensuring BCPs are ready.

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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.

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Following this we discussed issues with VAT in relation to Deposit Return Schemes , which is a concern to all four administrations but particularly to Scottish Government as their scheme launches in 2023.

Finally we agreed to publish the Joint Fisheries Statement.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5 December.

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.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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