

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our re: MA/RE/3374/22

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure
Senedd Cymru

SeneddClimate@senedd.wales

10 November 2022

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your report on behalf of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on the Legislative Consent Memoranda for the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill.

I appreciate the work the Committee has undertaken in scrutinising the LCMs on this Bill, and I note we share a number of the same concerns.

I agree with the Committee that the Bank could potentially play an important role in scaling up and accelerating investment to support Wales' transition to net zero.

We therefore have been actively engaging with the UK Government to bring forward sensible amendments to the Bill to ensure that devolution is respected.

The Committee highlights the importance of clauses 2 (Objectives and activities) and 3 (Strategic priorities and plans) to the Bill, and it notes that currently there is no role for the Welsh Government or the Senedd. We share this concern and are in discussions with UK Government on amendments to address this.

More generally, we also share your concern about there being no role for the Welsh Government in the governance of the Bank, and we are seeking to address this with UK Government through specific amendments to the Bill.

Like the Committee, we were pleased to see that there was an amendment in the House of Lords to broaden the definition of infrastructure to include "nature-based solutions" to avoid any ambiguity in the acceptability of such propositions to the Bank. We support this amendment being retained through the House of Commons.

During the past few months there has been significant instability at Westminster which has resulted in a considerable number of changes in HM Treasury Ministers which has hampered the progress of our discussions towards any prospective agreement. There have also been

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

delays to the Bill's passage through the Commons due to the changes in UK ministerial responsibilities, and other announcements such as the Growth Plan 2022. I understand that the Bill will now progress to Committee Stage on 22 November. The Welsh Government will continue to engage with UK Government and seek appropriate amendments that respect devolution.

As negotiations are ongoing, unfortunately I cannot be more specific on the exact nature of the amendments until further progress is made. However, any agreement will result in a further SLCM and an opportunity for the Committee to report further on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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