

Paul Davies MS,

Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

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Peter Fox MS 

Date: 26th January 2023

Annwyl Paul,

Re:- Recent scrutiny session of the Food (Wales) Bill

I am writing to you following my recent appearance before the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee regarding my Food (Wales) Bill.

I would like to thank both yourself and the Committee for inviting me to the scrutiny session, and for the constructive approach that was taken by all Members. The comments that were made about the Bill were very helpful, and will assist myself and my team in improving the Bill as it moves through the Senedd's legislative process.

Of course, I am still of the firm belief that the Food (Wales) Bill will play an important part in delivering a more effective governance of the entire food system in Wales.

Both the Explanatory Memorandum and stakeholders that I have consulted with throughout this process – some of which the Committee have already spoken to in its scrutiny sessions so far – have made it clear that the Welsh food system as it stands does not provide for a joined-up approach to food-related policy, and that there is a general lack of scrutiny around the Welsh Government's current strategies.

Whilst I appreciate suggestions that existing legislative frameworks may offer an alternative to a standalone Bill, I believe that bolting-on separate policy areas onto current or developing legislation risks watering-down the aims of this proposed Bill. The importance of the food system to the well-being, health and prosperity of our communities cannot be overstated, and it is fundamental that we properly consider how we establish a stronger statutory basis in which the food system can operate effectively within, helping us to meet our wider aims.

As I have mentioned throughout the Bill process, I believe that the development of legislation should be approached in an open, collaborative way. By working together as a Senedd and in close collaboration with external stakeholders, we can ensure that policy that is derived from legislation is as effective as possible.

It is in this spirit that I would like to offer continued engagement with the Committee about the Food (Wales) Bill, and in particular any issues that you feel should be addressed during the remaining legislative stages. I look forward to considering any amendments to the Bill that the Committee considers appropriate.

If you require any more information to assist with your scrutiny then please do not hesitate to write to me.

Cofion Cynnes,



Peter Fox MS for Monmouth

Member-in-Charge, Food (Wales) Bill