

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-RE-0423-23

Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1SN

15 February 2023

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your detailed report which was published on 16 January 2023. I reiterate my thanks to the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee for its diligent work on the UK Infrastructure Bank Bill. I have addressed the recommendations and points raised in your Report below.

**Recommendation 1.** You will be aware that a debate was held on 17 January 2023, and I believe I addressed the recommendations below during the debate as you requested. I am pleased that the Senedd consented to the Legislative Consent Motion.

**Recommendation 2.** I welcome the broadening of the definition of public authorities to make clear that the Bank can lend to a wider range of devolved public authorities, rather than simply Local Authorities. The appropriateness of borrowing to specific public authorities and any impact on their funding arrangements would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Recommendation 3.** In our negotiations we argued that devolved interests needed to be appropriately reflected in the Bill and we were absolutely clear about which clauses were problematic in respect of the devolution settlement. With regards to the role of the Senedd, I will ensure that the Government consults with Members as and when Welsh Ministers are consulted by the UK Government, as I indicated in my comments during the debate. I hope that this helps alleviate your concerns about the role of the Senedd in scrutinising the exercise of powers.

I share the Committee's disappointment that the amendment agreed by the House of Lords to broaden the definition of infrastructure to include 'nature-based solutions' was not retained at House of Commons Stage.

I note your comments on the timing of the debate following the tabling of SLCM (no.3). I recognise that only a limited amount of time allotted for scrutiny as a result. However, this was dictated by the schedule of the UK Parliament and not Welsh Government.

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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.

Finally, I am pleased that you welcome the amendment to ensure the Bank's Board includes at least one director to represent the interests of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

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