



Mark Isherwood MS  
Chair  
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

29 June 2023

Dear Chair

I am writing in advance of the Committee evidence session on 5 July in relation to Gilestone Farm, to set out the latest position for members of the Committee.

### Current Position and Community Engagement

Following initial due diligence, the Minister for Economy provided a [Written Statement](#) to the Senedd on 17 May announcing the decision to proceed to the following next steps:

- to grant access, by licence, to Green Man representatives to undertake environmental and other surveys required to secure appropriate licences and permissions for their proposal; and
- for officials to commence formal lease negotiations with Green Man.

Alongside the Written Statement, Welsh Government published a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Welsh Government website which can be accessed [here](#). These FAQs are intended to provide the community with official, and accurate, information relating to the progress of the project.

Representatives of Green Man have also independently engaged with the local community. A website has been launched at [www.gilestonefarmproject.co.uk](http://www.gilestonefarmproject.co.uk) which provides further information from the business plan and leaflets promoting the website and its information have been delivered to all properties within the locality.

Future engagement with the local community will be coordinated through the Community Council as the organisation with a democratic mandate to represent the residents. This is currently under discussion following the appointment of a new Chairperson and Clerk and will be accelerated over the coming weeks.

### Next Steps

Once the next steps outlined above have been completed, further assessment by officials will be undertaken based on the outcomes. This will include an assessment using the Five Case Business Model as well as consideration of any specific Accounting Officer issues. The output from these exercises will be reviewed by a group of independent senior officials and the Property Leadership Team (the latter will consider the detail of the property transaction only), and any subsequent advice or recommendations will be considered by lead officials and the Additional Accounting Officer, as appropriate, prior to the final submission.

Ministers will then be presented with a full and final options appraisal on the potential future use of Gilestone Farm to make a decision.

### Timescale

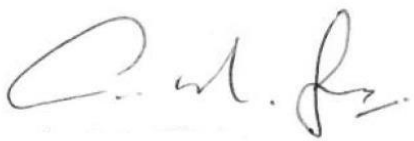
A Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) is in place, on commercial terms, to October 2023. This FBT ensures:

- the appropriate management of the site in the interim;
- sufficient time for initial assessment of the Green Man business plan; and
- an income for the Welsh Government investment at the site.

Once final due diligence has been completed, a full and final options appraisal will be submitted to Ministers for consideration.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**Andrew Slade**  
Director General  
Economy, Treasury and Constitution