

Dame Glenys Stacey, Chair, Office for
Environmental Protection

Natalie Prosser, Chief Executive Officer, Office
for Environmental Protection

5 July 2023

Dear Dame Glenys and Natalie,

Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's consideration of interim environmental protection measures in Wales

Thank you for attending the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's 21 June meeting to discuss the work of the Office for Environmental Protection ('OEP'). Your evidence provided valuable insight into the role of the OEP, how it operates in practice, and lessons learned to date. This will help inform our forthcoming report on Wales' interim environmental protection measures and stand us in good stead for our future work on a new Welsh environmental governance body.

Given time constraints, the Committee could not cover all areas of interest with you. It would be helpful, therefore, if you could provide a written response to the questions below.

1. The OEP has jurisdiction in Wales in relation to environmental matters reserved to the UK Government. Can you provide examples of such matters?
2. Can you clarify whether you have considered any cases of failure to comply with reserved environmental matters?
3. How have you worked with (or how do you envisage working with) relevant regulators in Wales on these cases?

The Welsh Government has set out its intention to publish a White Paper for an environmental governance Bill before the end of December 2023. The Bill will make provision for establishing a new environmental governance body, among other things.

4. Has the OEP been invited to share its experiences with the Welsh Government to inform the development of the Bill?

Finally, we were interested to hear about the OEP's ongoing work on the respective roles, responsibilities and powers of Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the UK Government in relation to water companies. It would be helpful if you could share the output from your work with us at an appropriate time.

I anticipate the Committee will want to invite you to give evidence to inform our scrutiny of the Bill when the time comes. I hope you will be amenable to this.

Until then, we look forward to receiving a response from you.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.