

Committee update

Spring 2023

Welcome to our fourth committee update

This is the fourth bulletin for the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. It provides an overview of the Committee's recent activities and planned work to help you stay up to date and engage with the Committee's work.

It has been produced by the Clerking team which supports the Committee. We normally aim to produce these termly however, due to the volume of work related to the two Bills the Committee is considering we are sending this later than we would have liked. Apologies for the delay, however this does mean you are about to read a bumper edition of our bulletin. If you have any feedback please let us know using the contact details below.

Contact details

You can email the Committee Clerking Team:

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

Phone us: 0300 200 6565

Follow us on Twitter: [@SeneddEconomy](https://twitter.com/SeneddEconomy)

Website: www.senedd.wales/SeneddEconomy



Committee update

Darren Millar MS was elected temporary Chair of the Committee on 16 February whilst Paul Davies MS is on medical leave.



Current Work

Post EU regional development funding

The Committee is undertaking an inquiry into [post-EU regional development funding](#) and is currently gathering views.

The [consultation](#) is currently open and is due to run until 21 April 2023.

The Committee also invites organisations with hands on experience of post-EU regional development funding streams to complete a [survey](#) which runs until 15 May 2023.

Agriculture (Wales) Bill

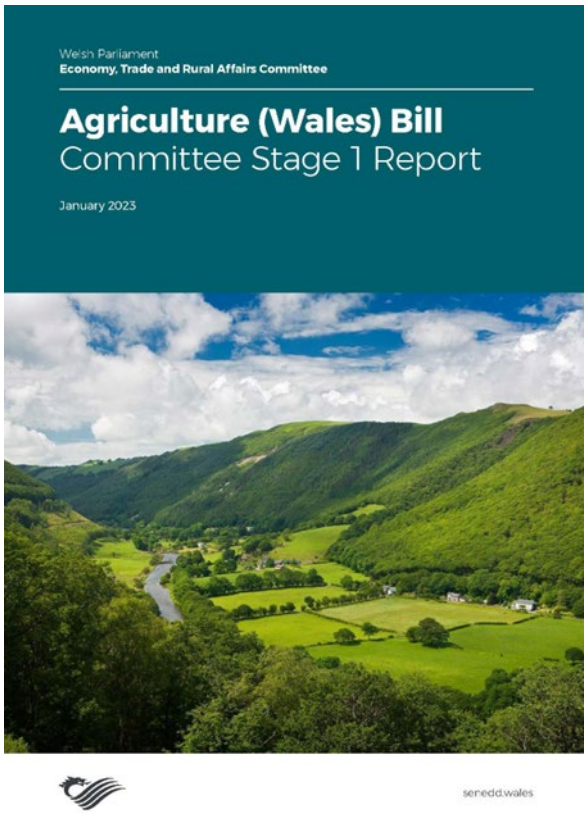
Committee Members visited Talwen Fawr farm in Garthbrengy and Maesllwch Home Farm in Glasbury on 22 September 2022 to speak to farmers about the proposed [Agriculture \(Wales\) Bill](#) and Sustainable Farming Scheme.



On 20 September 2022, the Business Committee referred the Bill to the Committee to consider and report on the general principles. The Bill was introduced to the Senedd on 26 September 2022.

To help inform its scrutiny, the Committee asked for views on the general principles of the Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention. The consultation ran from Friday 30 September 2022 to Friday 11 November 2022, and [56 responses](#) were received. The Committee held ten evidence sessions between September and November 2022 before agreeing its report.

The Committee laid its [stage 1 report](#) on 27 January 2023.



A debate took place in Plenary on [7 February 2023](#) and the motion to agree the general principles of the Bill was agreed.

Stage 2 of the Bill – detailed committee consideration - began on 8 February 2023. The Business Committee agreed that Stage 2 proceedings should be completed by 21 April 2023.

Stage 2 consideration took place in Committee on [23 March 2023](#), with 61 amendments disposed of. Stage 3 commenced the following day, Friday 24 March and all Senedd Members may now table amendments for consideration in Plenary. More news and information

about the Bill's progress can be found on the [Bill page](#).

Food (Wales) Bill

The [Food \(Wales\) Bill](#) is a Senedd Member Bill, introduced by Peter Fox MS who was successful in a legislative ballot.

The Bill was introduced to the Senedd on 12 December 2022. The Committee agreed its approach to Stage 1 scrutiny on [14 December 2022](#).

To help inform its scrutiny, the Committee held a consultation asking for views on the general principles of the Bill. This ran from Thursday 15 December 2022 to Friday 27 January 2023, and [29 responses](#) were received. The Committee held eight oral evidence sessions between December 2022 and March 2023.

The reporting deadline for the Committee's stage 1 report is 12 May 2023.

Cost of Living

The Welsh Government [responded](#) to the Committee's initial report on the impact of cost of living pressures, which was published on 28 July 2022. A debate on the report took place in [Plenary](#) on [16 November 2022](#).

The Committee took further oral evidence during the Autumn term

2022 on the ongoing impact of cost of living pressures, in particular about the [cost of doing business](#) and the [Young Person's Guarantee](#). The Committee then wrote to the Welsh Government on [20 December 2022](#) and Welsh Government [responded](#) on 24 January 2023.

Annual scrutiny of the Development Bank of Wales

The Committee held its regular scrutiny session with the Development Bank of Wales on [1 March 2023](#).

Trade Deals

The Committee will continue to monitor progress with Trade deals, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a free trade agreement between 11 countries.

Recent Activities

Legislative Consent: Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill

The [Strikes \(Minimum Services Levels\) Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 10 January 2023.

The long title to the Bill notes that it is a Bill “to make provision about minimum service levels in connection with the taking by trade

unions of strike action relating to certain services.”

The Committee laid its [report](#) on 30 March 2023.

Legislative Consent: Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill

The [Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 22 September 2022.

The long title to the Bill notes that it is a Bill “to make provision about economic crime and corporate transparency; to make further provision about companies, limited partnerships and other kinds of corporate entity; and to make provision about the registration of overseas entities..”

The Committee laid its [report](#) on 8 March 2023.

Legislative Consent: Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill

The [Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 11 May 2022.

The long title to the Bill notes that it is a Bill “to make provision for the setting of levelling-up missions and reporting on progress in delivering them; about local democracy; about town and country planning; about

Community Infrastructure Levy; about the imposition of Infrastructure Levy; about environmental outcome reports for certain consents and plans; about regeneration; about the compulsory purchase of land; about information and records relating to land, the environment or heritage; for the provision for pavement licences to be permanent; about governance of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; about vagrancy and begging; and for connected purposes.”.

The Committee laid its [report](#) on 15 February 2023.

Legislative Consent: Shark Fins Bill

The [Shark Fins Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 16 November 2022. The long title to the Bill notes that’s it is a bill ‘to prohibit the import and export of shark fins and to make provision relating to the removal of fins from sharks’.

The Committee laid its [report](#) on 10 January 2023.

Review of the Water Resources (Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

The Committee published its [report](#) ‘Review of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution)

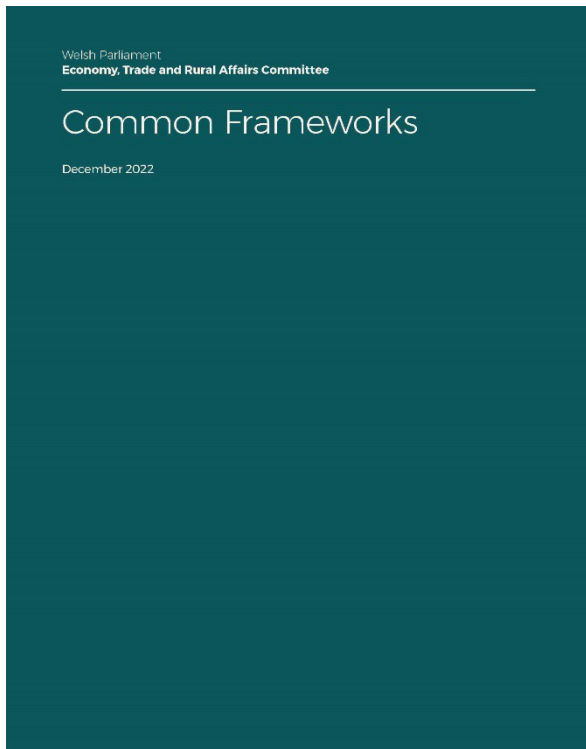
(Wales) Regulations 201 on 8 June 2022. The Welsh Government [responded](#) on 5 October 2022.

A debate on the report took place in [Plenary](#) on 12 October 2022. The Welsh Government subsequently issued a [12 week consultation on a licensing scheme](#) on 25 November 2022.

Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Inquiry

The Welsh Government [responded](#) to the Committee’s report ‘Raising the bar: Securing the future of Hospitality, Tourism and Retail on 7 September 2022 and a debate took place in [Plenary](#) on [Wednesday 9 November 2022](#).

Scrutiny of Provisional Common Frameworks



www.senedd.wales

The Committee published its [Common Frameworks report](#) in December 2022.

Forward Work Programme

In February the Committee agreed its [work programme](#) into Summer 2023. The published work programme indicates the current intentions of the Committee at the time of publishing, however it may change at any time to respond to external events.

After a six month period largely dominated by legislative scrutiny the Committee will be focusing on its inquiry into post-EU regional development funding discussed

above, along with general scrutiny of the Ministers for Economy and Rural Affairs and North Wales, and the opportunity to get out and about on Committee visits before the summer recess.

Remit

The Committee was established on 23 June 2021, with a remit encompassing (but not restricted to): economic development, regeneration, skills, trade, research and development (including technology and science), and rural affairs.

Committee Members



Committee Chair:
Paul Davies MS
Welsh Conservatives



Hefin David MS
Welsh Labour



Luke Fletcher MS
Plaid Cymru



Samuel Kurtz MS
Welsh Conservatives



Vikki Howells MS
Welsh Labour



Sarah Murphy MS
Welsh Labour
