

Committee update

Spring-Summer 2022

Welcome to our second committee update

This is the second 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. If you have any feedback please let us know using the contact details below.

Contact details

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Current Work

Cost of Living

The cost of living crisis is high on the agenda for many Senedd Committees. The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee has started work to look at the impact of increasing cost of living on Wales' the workforce, businesses and rural communities. A consultation ran until 16 May, and Members held an oral evidence session on 26 May. The Committee has also commissioned specific engagement work to seek the views of those most affected. The outcomes of the engagement work will be published alongside the Committee's report.

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

A judgement in the judicial review of these regulations was handed down on 23 March 2022, with the court dismissing NFU Cymru's claim. Following the outcome of the court case the Minister for Rural Affairs gave evidence to the Committee on 11 May, the Committee will report as soon as possible.

Bovine Tuberculosis

The Committee conducted a one-day inquiry on 28 April into Welsh Government's consultation proposals for a refreshed Bovine TB

eradication programme, taking evidence from academic experts, farming representatives, and RSPCA Cymru, who were unable to attend the session but provided written evidence. The Committee will publish its report on 20 May. The Welsh Government aims refreshed eradication programme is expected in July.

Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Inquiry

Reflecting Members' strong interest in the recovery and future development of these sectors, on 3 March the Committee took evidence from business and tourism representatives, trade unions, the Bevan Foundation and the skills sector. This was followed by an online survey and individual interviews to gather views from workers in those sectors on issues raised in Committee. Members aim to report their findings before the summer holiday season.

Scrutiny of Provisional Common Frameworks

The Committee has continued its scrutiny of these non-legislative frameworks for post-EU cooperation between the UK Government and devolved administrations on policy and legislation. Following a consultation on the seven frameworks in the Committee's remit, on 17 March Welsh Government officials provided

technical briefing on three frameworks prioritised for scrutiny: Agricultural Support; Animal Health and Welfare; and Fertilisers.

Members also questioned the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, on aspects of the frameworks. Some scrutiny has been conducted via correspondence, and everything will be published on the [Common Frameworks pages](#) on the Senedd website.

Trade Deals

On [3 March](#) the Committee took evidence from trade policy experts on the impact of the **UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, and on [17 March](#) spoke to the Ministers for Economy and Rural Affairs and North Wales, the farming unions and Meat Promotion Wales. A [consultation](#) on this FTA also ran from 21 January to 28 February. The Committee [wrote to the Minister for Economy on 3 May](#), copying in the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales and the UK Parliamentary Committees responsible for scrutinising the FTA.

The Committee will examine the implications of the **UK-New Zealand FTA** at meetings in the summer term. A public [consultation](#) closed on 25 March.

The Committee will also continue to monitor progress with the Comprehensive and Progressive

Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a free trade agreement between 11 countries.

Recent Activities

HGV Driver Shortage and Supply Chain Issues

A plenary debate on the Committee's report was held on [23 March](#), after which the Committee [wrote](#) to the Minister for Economy to follow up on the issue of devolved competence over driver training, roadside conditions and facilities. The Minister's [response was noted on 11 May](#).

Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Management and Support Framework

The Committee's report on the Draft Joint Fisheries Statement was [laid](#) in advance of the scrutiny deadline of 12 April, and a response from Welsh Government is expected by the end of May.

Forward Work Programme

In March the Committee agreed its [work programme](#) into Summer 2022. 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.

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
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