

Eirwen Williams  
Director  
Menter a Busnes

23 January 2024

**Committee inquiry: Farming Connect**

Dear Eirwen

Last year the Committee agreed that its spring work programme would include looking at Farming Connect and how it will support the implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. Having pursued invitations to Farming Connect officials to give oral evidence, it appears that the tender process for the new contract, and ongoing consultation on the SFS, are factors in the timing of this work.

The Committee has decided to go ahead with seeking views on Farming Connect from a range of farming and environmental stakeholders at its meeting on 22 February, but will seek oral evidence from those delivering the contract at a later date, once the tendering process is complete.

While I appreciate that your organisation will not want to prejudice any future bid you may be planning to make for the next round of Farming Connect contracts, to help inform our work the Committee would be keen to hear about your views and experience around the current operation of Farming Connect, especially including your interactions with farmers, anything that hinders your work and anything you would like to see changed in the next round of tendering.

I would be grateful for the Committee to receive a response in time to inform the sessions planned with stakeholders, i.e. by close of play on Monday 5 February.

I have also written to Lantra asking for their views.

Kind regards,

Paul Davies

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

