

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd**  
**Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

19 March 2024

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 29<sup>th</sup> February relating to the important work undertaken in Internal Drainage Districts (IDD), including to protect productive agricultural land across Wales.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) carries out all Internal Drainage Board (IDB) functions in Wales and also manage risks from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater in those drainage districts. This is an established function, however, we recognise there are challenges including the viability of sustainability for the IDBs specifically with climate change.

My officials and NRW acknowledge there is a need to discuss wider the functionality and effectiveness when it comes to flood defences. Affordability also must be a consideration and will be discussed when considering our longer-term investment needs for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk management.

Due to wider legislative commitments, the proposed scheme which would have altered the IDD boundaries, has not yet progressed. This is again being considered and my officials are in direct dialogue with Welsh Government Legal Services and NRW to ensure a resolution to this outstanding amendment can be sought.

Regards

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
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**Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.