

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

2 May 2024

Dear Huw,

At our meeting on 24 April 2024, we considered the correspondence informing the Committee that the previous Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd had given her consent to the Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare to lay the Environment and Rural Affairs (Revocation and Consequential Provision) Regulations 2024.

You will be aware that the Committee has followed developments relating to retained EU law (REUL), now assimilated law, since the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill was introduced in the UK Parliament in September 2022.

The Committee agreed to seek your views on the following matters:

- Your assessment of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 on environmental law in Wales.
- Your view on the implications for environmental governance in Wales.
- You will be aware of our previous exchanges with the former Minister for Climate Change, who told us that the Welsh Government wished to retain elements of the National Emission Ceilings Regulations which the UK Government had included on Schedule 1 for automatic revocation on 31 December 2023.
  - i. Could you provide an update on the intergovernmental discussions regarding these regulations?
  - ii. Will the Welsh Government use the powers available to Welsh Ministers under the Act, or other powers available to Welsh Ministers, to reinstate the NEC Regulations, in whole or in part?
  - iii. Whether the revocation of the NEC Regulations had any practical impact or effect?



- Your view on the expiration of general principles of EU law at the end of 2023 and the implications for environmental law in Wales.
- Your view on the plans set out by the UK Government in its [first REUL report](#) to the UK Parliament as they relate to areas of this Committee's remit, particularly its timetable, the capacity of the Welsh Government to respond and implications for environmental law in Wales.
  - i. Could you confirm what role, if any, the Welsh Government had in the preparation of this report.
- Whether the Welsh Government is aware of additional upcoming changes under the Act to environmental assimilated law?
- Whether WG themselves has any current plans to use powers in the REUL Act in relation to the environment?
- Any further views or information you consider it would be important to share with the Committee.

I am copying this letter to Sarah Murphy MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

I should be grateful for a response as soon as possible, and by 30 May at the latest

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.