

**Public Accounts Committee**  
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Emyr Roberts  
Chief Executive  
Natural Resources Wales  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

12 February 2013

**Public Accounts Committee Meeting – 5 February 2013**  
**Operations Forestry Commission Wales Follow-up Report.**

Dear Emyr

I would like to begin by welcoming you in your new role as Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales.

On Tuesday 5 February 2013 the Public Accounts Committee discussed issues raised by the Wales Audit Office's January report: Operations of the Forestry Commission Wales Follow-up Report.

The Committee resolved to request a written update from the Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales on the implementation of a recommendation previously made by the third Assembly's Public Accounts Committee, in its report on Forestry Commission Wales: Public Funding of Ffynone and Cilgyn Woodlands in February 2011. Specifically, the Committee requested an update on recommendation 13 of this report:

We recommend that Forestry Commission Wales continue to encourage community involvement in the decision making surrounding the woodland bay all means possible in the hope and expectation that the community reciprocate.

It may be helpful to note that the Welsh Government previously advised the Committee in March 2011 that:

“FCW has supported Coed Lleol (a group managed by the Smallwoods Association) to work with Calon yn Tyfu Cyf (Calon) on community engagement using the proposed Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of the woodlands as a vehicle for discussions. A number of open community meetings have been undertaken throughout the summer 2010 and more are planned. The FSC requires ongoing engagement to maintain certification. Calon have an existing process that permits members of the co-

Tom Jackson  
Clerc/Clerk  
Ffon / Phone: 029 2089 8597  
Ffacs / fax: 029 2089 8021  
Ebost / Email: tom.jackson@wales.gov.uk

operative to become members of the board. They are willing to accept new members to the co-operative

“The work being done by contractors on behalf of Calon is monitored by the local FCW Woodland Officer and other FCW staff have informal contact with them on an occasional basis in order to provide advice on their plans. When in contact we will continue to encourage Calon to engage the local community in its decision making process.”

I would be very grateful if you could liaise with Forestry Commission Wales to provide the Committee with a further update on this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Millar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Darren Millar AM**  
**Committee Chair**

Tom Jackson  
Clerc/Clerk  
Ffon / Phone: 029 2089 8597  
Ffacs / fax: 029 2089 8021  
Epost / Email: [tom.jackson@wales.gov.uk](mailto:tom.jackson@wales.gov.uk)