



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/5192/24

Paul Davies MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

31 July 2024

Dear Paul,

I writing to inform you of the appointment of Dr Susannah Bolton as independent external chair to oversee the statutory review of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

You will be aware the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 were introduced in April 2021 and set out an all-Wales approach to reducing the detrimental impacts of pollution from agricultural activities. Implementation has been phased-in over a four-year period and the final set of measures will come into force by the end of the year. A 12-month Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach was introduced for the 2024 calendar year.

At least every four years, the effectiveness of the measures imposed by the Regulations as a means of reducing or preventing water pollution from agricultural sources must be reviewed and, if necessary, revised. Preparatory work for the review has been undertaken and the review, which will be overseen by Dr Bolton, will provide a prime opportunity to take stock and to listen further to the wide range of views on the effectiveness of the Regulations. As part of this, we will continue to engage with stakeholders, including on the alternative measures proposals, in a true spirit of partnership.

Dr Bolton is Vice Principal for Enterprise and Knowledge Exchange for Scotland's Rural College, supporting the development of mission-led approaches to address the challenges facing food production and the natural economy. Until December 2021, she was Research Director for the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), responsible for a programme of applied research on behalf of farmers and processors across the arable, horticulture, ruminant and pork sectors of the UK.

Prior to that, Dr Bolton was Knowledge Exchange Director and oversaw the development of the AHDB Farm Excellence Platform, a farmer network of over 70 farm businesses,

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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.

delivering knowledge exchange, peer to peer learning and benchmarking. She has previous experience in a Welsh context engaging in cross border work in relation to the Wye catchment supporting decision making tools for farmers to use to help address nutrient losses. She has a PhD in Tropical Agroforestry and spent 3 years working with the research provider EMBRAPA in North East Brazil, following which she was responsible for international relations and external communications at Rothamsted Research.

I attach great importance to this review and I am very grateful to Dr Bolton for taking on the role of independent chair. A final report and recommendations from the review to Welsh Ministers are expected by the end of March 2025, which I am sure will be of interest to members of the committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs