

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1462  
Ein cyf/Our ref HIDCC/10176/24

Chair of the Petitions Committee

29 October 2024

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 6 September regarding Petition P-06-1462 to Scrap all Welsh Government policies from Agenda 21/ Agenda 2030/ Sustainable Development including Net Zero.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out an ambitious agenda for creating a more sustainable world. We share this ambition in Wales, and we are committed to making our contribution to the goals through our Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Act connects social, environmental, economic, and cultural well-being and looks to solve complex issues through better decision-making with the aim of creating a more sustainable future. We are proud of the ambitious steps we have taken to legislate for future generations.

Welsh agriculture is at the heart of many of our rural communities, therefore, it is imperative we ensure a thriving sector for future generations who will be farming in much more challenging conditions. We must act today to adapt and mitigate for this.

In 2021, the Welsh Government published its [Net Zero Wales Plan](#), setting out how we will meet Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) and set the foundations for transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050. It describes how the actions of many will not only help us deliver net zero but also create a greener, stronger, fairer Wales.

Transitioning to net zero in agriculture is a technical, cultural and societal challenge and the sector will need significant support to ensure it is equipped with the skills and knowledge to enable a just and timely transition within the rural community.

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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.

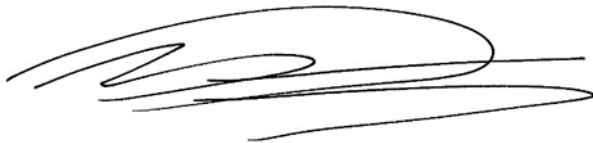
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

One way in which we are helping the sector to adapt to Net Zero, is ensuring the voices of farmers and key industry stakeholders are considered in the final design of the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). The Scheme, which is underpinned by the Sustainable Land Management objectives established in the Agriculture (Wales) Act, is being designed to support the ongoing sustainable production of food at the same time as taking action to address the climate and nature emergency. Through the Ministerial Roundtable we continue to work with key stakeholders to consider the scheme design before any final decisions are made by Welsh Ministers.

The Welsh Government is committed to working with and supporting farmers and land managers through this transition and I welcome the excellent work already being done by farmers to decarbonise their farms. Indeed, our high standards in food and farming are key to our response to the climate emergency, and our plans for enhancing biodiversity will help ensure a thriving sector for both now and future generations.

The challenge of climate change requires everyone to work together across geographic and sectoral boundaries, and collaboration is essential if we are going to be successful. I am proud that other nations and regions across the world are looking to Wales as an example of global leadership on sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping loops and lines, positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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