

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for

Climate Change and Rural Affairs

21 March 2025

Dear Huw

The Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025

At its meeting of 10 March 2025, the Committee considered your [letter of 7 March 2025](#) in respect of your intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025 (the No. 2 Regulations). I note from your letter of 12 March 2025 that you subsequently gave your consent, and that the No. 2 Regulations were made and laid on 11 March 2025.

The Committee noted your statement in your letter of 7 March that the Baroness Hayman of Ullock wrote to you on 8 January 2025 to request your consent to the No. 2 Regulations. Given that the timing of your letter meant that the Senedd was provided with a only very limited window of opportunity to express a view before your consent was formally given, the Committee would be grateful to receive an explanation as to why you were unable to communicate your intention to consent to the Committee at an earlier point.

The Committee also noted your explanation that the (then titled) Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) Regulations 2024, which were approved by the UK Parliament on 4 December 2024, had not been made by the Secretary of State at the time of your letter. You proceeded to state in your letter that these regulations: would be made on 11 March; would come into force 21 days later and immediately before the No. 2 Regulations; and would be retitled the Persistent Organic Pollutants (Amendment) Regulations 2025. It would appear to us that an inordinate amount of time elapsed between the approval of these regulations in the UK Parliament and their making by the UK Government. In this respect, I would be grateful if you could provide your understanding of why this



was the case, and the legal basis for such a delay, in the interests of transparency and the promotion of good law-making.

I would be grateful to receive your response in respect of these two matters by 23 April 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges

Chair