

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change  
and Rural Affairs

3 June 2025

Dear Huw,

### **Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021**

In private session following our meeting on 15 May, Members discussed the Committee's previous work on the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. Members particularly discussed our [June 2022 report](#) on those regulations and a Committee visit to Gelli Aur where they demonstrated an interesting project using weather stations and ground monitoring equipment to assess when it was best to spread fertiliser.

As a result of strong evidence received by the Committee from stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government, and the demonstration at Gelli Aur, the Committee made a number of recommendations which looking at the use of technology to move away from 'farming by calendar.' These included:

- The Welsh Government should prioritise any suitable alternative proposals that utilise technology rather than closed periods for spreading, or 'farming by calendar'.
- The Welsh Government should provide the Committee with an update on its consideration of alternative proposals by early 2023 and further regular annual updates on the consideration of alternative measures, in advance of the formal regulatory review.

Please could you provide an update on any progress with developments in this area, particularly on any progress towards replacing farming by calendar requirements with a more accurate/responsive technology-based solution?



Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies

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Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

