

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

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

Rebecca Evans MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

Jack Sargeant MS

Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership

1 August 2025

Dear Huw, Rebecca and Jack,

Follow-up to Committee Meeting of 17 July 2025

Thank you all for attending your respective general scrutiny sessions with the Committee on 17 July 2025. During the sessions, several points of follow-up were raised which you committed to address in writing. In the case of the rural affairs session, there were also multiple questions the Committee was unable to reach in the time frame, but would appreciate a response on. For clarity, these are all set out below:

Rural Affairs

Bluetongue

- How many fewer livestock units have moved into Wales, since Bluetongue restrictions came into place?

Fisheries

- How will your development and implementation of Fisheries Management Plans be impacted by the newly agreed extension to UK-EU fishing arrangements to 2038?
 - How are you engaging with the fishing industry in anticipation of the extension?
 - How are you engaging with the fishing shellfish industry in anticipation of the likely introduction of a UK-EU sanitary and phytosanitary agreement?

Agricultural pollution regulations

- Why are some of the recommendations made by Dr Susannah Bolton's review of the agricultural pollution regulations identified as taking over three years to implement?
- Will the Welsh Government be publishing a programme of works setting out how and when all the recommendations will be implemented? If so, when?

International Trade

As discussed in the session, you committed to write to us regarding confirmation that the Welsh Government is not making any public investment in any company that is investing in armaments to Israel.

Economy and Skills

During the final session, there was commitment to provide the Committee with the following information:

Skills

- when available, a timeline on when we can expect an announcement on construction apprenticeships and the reintroduction of a level 2 qualification
- Correspondence from the Minister for Further and Higher Education with a fuller response on rolling out junior apprenticeships
- Specific figures on the uptake of rail degree apprenticeships.

Economy

- The specific detail on property development at Brocastle

- Any information available on the dashboard data shared with the Transition Board with regards to outcomes and next steps for those affected by Tata redundancies in Port Talbot.

I look forward to your responses to these questions and queries, which the Committee would be grateful to receive by 18 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew RT Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English