

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/00641/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

22 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 4 July to the First Minister, Eluned Morgan MS, regarding the petition received by the Petitions Committee - Petition P-06-1520 Stop all foreign aid payments from the Welsh Government including to "Size of Wales". It has been passed to me to respond.

Size of Wales is a Welsh charity that works towards making Wales a part of the global solution to climate change. They work with communities worldwide to protect rainforests and plant trees to protect at least two million hectares of tropical forests – an area the size of Wales. They work with trusted partners around the world on vital work protecting forests. They also provide education to pupils in Wales about the need to take action on deforestation and climate change.

The bulk of grant funding to Size of Wales has been spent on the Mbale Tree Planting Programme in Uganda. As a globally responsible nation, we believe that supporting a programme that funds planting of trees on the equator, where growth rates are more than four times that of our own, brings benefit to the people of Wales as we attempt to fight the climate crisis. It is no longer possible for a country to determine its future alone. Climate change does not respect national boundaries, and we are supporting communities on the forefront of the climate crisis.

Through this project, Wales is supporting the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to alleviate poverty for those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As of June 2025, the Mbale Tree Planting Programme (MTPP), through the planting of 25 million trees, has sequestered an estimated 1,434,819 tonnes of CO2 since the project began. As we contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions, we help tackle the climate crisis, which is perhaps the biggest threat to humanity.

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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.

The MTPP demonstrates Wales' commitment to Climate Justice. Rural Ugandans have done very little to cause the climate change that is causing them so many problems – which include drought, flooding, and landslides. By supporting this Ugandan-led project, Wales is helping some of the very poorest people in the world adapt to climate change, secure their habitats from natural disasters and improve their livelihoods. The MTPP isn't just about planting trees; the programme builds safer, fuel-efficient stoves, advises on better agricultural techniques, distributes improved seeds for crops, supports 32 beekeeping groups which in the last year have produced 10,000kgs of honey and puts gender empowerment at the centre of their work.

Trees provide multiple benefits beyond absorbing carbon. They provide shade for vulnerable crops such as coffee, they provide shelter for homes during damaging storms, fruit to supplement poor diets, they fix nitrogen in the soil to improve crop yields and stabilise the soil to prevent landslides to which the region is prone.

The Welsh Government funding also contributes towards the education work that Size of Wales carries out across Wales. Each year, Size of Wales offer in-depth support to 12 schools, helping them to become Deforestation-Free Champion schools, which has a positive impact in the wider community. Pupils from a minimum of 100 schools also take part in workshop sessions. Size of Wales runs two YouthCOP events per year, one in north Wales and one in south Wales, for young people aged 9-14 to learn about the UN and its annual climate change conference.

The Welsh Government has also provided funding to Size of Wales to support their work with the Wampis Nation in the Peruvian Amazon. Following a meeting with Wampis at COP26, the then Minister for Climate Change agreed to provide funding to the Wampis Nation to support their goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy. Indigenous technicians were trained in solar technology and they have constructed the first solar-powered boat in Peru. Our support has helped strengthen the Wampis Nation to protect their forest, culture and livelihoods.

The Wampis' territory covers over 1.3 million hectares of tropical forest and is extremely biodiverse with 98% of the forest remaining intact, despite pressures from illegal logging and gold mining and oil exploration. The significance of the Wampis' territory to climate protection in Peru and internationally is immense. A study estimated that the Wampis' forests store 145 million tonnes of carbon.

To conclude, Size of Wales receives donations from the public and from many different organisations in addition to funds from the Welsh Government. These other funders, along with the Welsh Government, have been instrumental in supporting a number of projects listed in the petition. I hope the above has helped to explain the use of Welsh Government funds.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Hutt AS/MS

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