



Comisiwn **Seilwaith**
Cenedlaethol **Cymru**
National **Infrastructure**
Commission **Wales**

Ein cyf/Our ref: NICW/2603/DC/CCEI01

Llyr Huws Gruffydd AS
Chair, CCEI Committee

10 March 2026

Dear Llyr,

Re: Scrutiny session of NICW

Thank you for your letter of 26 February, following the Committee's scrutiny session on 21 January. I would like to express my appreciation for the constructive and positive relationship that has existed between the Committee and the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales throughout the Sixth Senedd. I welcome the opportunity to respond to the issues you raised in your letter.

The Committee's reflections on the Welsh Government's review of the NICW are helpful and timely. As I outlined during the session, we have been developing a suite of performance measures that can guide and support the work of any successor Commission. These indicators focus on the quality and influence of our advice, the effectiveness of our engagement with stakeholders and government, and our contribution to Wales's long-term infrastructure outcomes. We consider that performance management should be within NICW's remit set by the Welsh Government, a consideration we will share with the incoming administration.

Your letter also highlights the ongoing challenges we have faced in maintaining structured and consistent engagement with Welsh Government.

Commissioners have, on occasion, learned of developments relevant to our recommendations through informal or indirect channels rather than through a clear and routine process. This is not an optimal way of working for either organisation. I will therefore propose a more formal liaison arrangement, supported by regular strategic discussions with officials and Ministers where needed, with the incoming administration to ensure liaison is regular and meaningful. The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning recently emphasised to you that it is for NICW to keep abreast of its own recommendations. Whilst we certainly endeavour to do that, we lack the resources to track the activity of Welsh Government across all areas on which

we have made recommendations. We anticipate that regular meetings should provide us with the opportunity to address any existing information deficit.

I share the Committee's concern about the clarity of Welsh Government responses to our recommendations. While we have had constructive interactions, the absence of explicit acceptance, partial acceptance or rejection has sometimes made it difficult to understand the extent to which our advice is being taken forward. I believe that a more structured response protocol would enhance transparency for stakeholders and improve the Commission's ability to assess the impact of its work. Such clarity would also help us plan our future activity more effectively. I am encouraged by the recent meeting we have had in response to our Climate Adaptation report with officials, and hope that we can build upon this approach with our future work.

I am grateful for the Committee's recognition of the importance of our climate adaptation report. As discussed during the scrutiny session, I remain concerned that adaptation has not historically received the balance of attention it requires when compared with mitigation. This imbalance is not unique to Wales, but it is one that we must address if we are to build resilience into our infrastructure systems and communities. I welcome the Committee's expectation that its successor will scrutinise progress on adaptation in the Seventh Senedd.

The Committee asked how we intend to assess the extent to which our findings influence the UK Climate Change Committee's forthcoming Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA4). To understand the impact of our contribution, I intend to examine how Welsh-specific risks and themes we identified are reflected in the CCC's analysis. This will include reviewing how our conclusions appear within risk categories, narrative descriptions and the treatment of infrastructure interdependencies. We will also identify where our evidence is referenced directly or where our recommendations are mirrored in the CCC's approach.

Finally, I am grateful for the Committee's reflections on the future of NICW. I believe that the Commission has demonstrated the value of independent, long-term infrastructure advice. Our recent paper on the evolution of NICW sets out a clear and ambitious vision for strengthening the Commission in the Seventh Senedd and beyond. I hope this provides a constructive basis for early decision-making by the incoming Welsh Government.

Thank you again for your continued engagement and scrutiny. It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of NICW, and I remain committed to supporting a strong, evidence-based approach to infrastructure policy in Wales.

Yn gywir,



Dr David Clubb
Cadeirydd/Chair