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Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/AD/0369/14

Environment and Sustainability Committee

21 March 2014

Dear Committee,

Actions points arising from the scrutiny session of 5 March

Further to the email from the Committee Clerk on 10 March, I am delighted to provide a response to the action points raised during my appearance before the Committee earlier this month.

I felt the session provided enlightening and robust debate, chaired fairly and superbly by our colleague Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, whom I regret to learn will no longer be in the role.

During the financial scrutiny session I agreed to provide further information on the compensation scheme for the fishing industry following recent storm damage. At the moment my officials are in the process of completing the criteria for eligibility of the fisheries compensation scheme for my prompt consideration.

My intention is to launch the scheme by the end of the financial year and my officials intend to contact the Welsh Fishermen's Association to ensure all affected fishermen are made aware of the scheme launch and understand how to submit an application. I will formally write again to the Committee to notify commencement of the scheme and outline the associated detail.

We also discussed flood and coastal management and I thought that it may be helpful to clarify in this letter the total capital spend for flood and coastal management for this financial year and also the proposed budget for 2014-15:

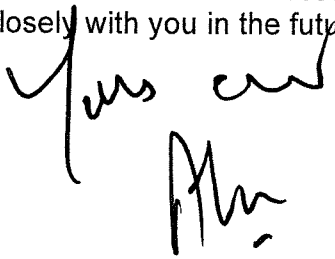
- The 2013/14 financial year-end Capital forecast for Flood & Coastal Management is £32,190,000. This is made up of £18,369,000 forecast spent on Grant in Aid to Natural Resources Wales and £13,821,000 forecast spent on funding to Local Authorities (the £13,821,000 includes £3,755,000 ERDF grant expenditure).
- The 2014/15 Capital budget for Flood & Coastal Management is £23,232,000. This is made up of the £9,732,000 baseline and £13,500,000 from Central Reserves

(£6,000,000 announced in June 2012 and £7,500,000 announced in July 2013). In addition to this, there will be a £10,041,420 contribution from the ERDF in 2014/15.

During the general scrutiny session I also agreed to provide further details on the number of Glastir contracts that had been issued to farmers by 1 January 2014, and the number of contracts returned to date. I can confirm that a total of 6,776 Glastir Contracts (all schemes) have been issued and 5,098 contracts have been signed and returned to date.

I can also advise that the useful and constructive discussion points we had in the meeting regarding a more strategic approach for Local Authorities collection of recycling was passed on to the Ministerial Policy Board on Wednesday 12 March for consideration.

I trust that I have addressed the Committee's queries in full and I look forward to working closely with you in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a stylized flourish below the name.

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd
Minister for Natural Resources and Food