

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-595  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/05082/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

22 October 2014

Dear William,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Minister for Natural Resources, dated 30 September, regarding the petition from David Hardwick. I am responding as food security issues fall under my direct responsibility as Deputy Minister for Farming and Food.

Safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales is central to the work of the Welsh Government. The sustainable management of our natural resources is critical to the future success of our economy and essential in creating a future for all our communities.

Wales is well placed to respond to food security challenges. Through '*Towards Sustainable Growth: An Action Plan for the Food and Drink Industry 2014-2020*', it is our intention to work closely with food security and food safety stakeholders in order to achieve a holistic approach to sustaining the food production base in Wales, and to protect consumers as a result. This will be part of the remit of the Food and Drink Wales Industry Board, which will be established shortly.

It is clear that we cannot act alone on these matters. The Welsh Government is already a partner and contributor to the Global Food Security Programme; a multi-agency programme which coordinates food security related research across government administrations in the UK, the UK Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

As Food and Farming is one of the Welsh Government's priority sectors, the Rural Development Plan (RDP), as it relates to food, is aligned with '*Towards Sustainable Growth*'. RDP funding will play a key part in supporting food production through the Food Business Investment Scheme, the Supply Chain Development Scheme, and through the provision of advice and knowledge transfer.

I am confident therefore that we are currently well placed to deal with food security challenges which may arise in the future.

Yours,

Rebecca

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