

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/05387/14

Alun Ffred Jones AM  
Chair - Environment and Sustainability Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

BA November 2014

Dear Alun

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October. I believe that the inquiry has been useful in that it has highlighted the points of concern raised by forestry stakeholders and it has helped to identify key areas where Natural Resources Wales can work with the Welsh Government, in partnership with the sector in order to develop a plan for stronger forestry support.

The key areas are as follows:

1. Improved quality of communication with forest sector
2. Improved transparency on forestry regulation and compliance
3. Improved transparency of forests facts and figures for timber production, forecasting and supply
4. Improved management of timber production and supply from the Welsh Government woodland estate and the Welsh forest resource
5. Recognition of the Welsh Government's outcomes in its forestry strategy, *Woodland for Wales* and the forestry sector when taking forward integrated natural resource management and an 'ecosystems approach' to decision making
6. Set out the role and purpose of the Welsh Government woodland estate and its strategic priorities to best deliver Welsh Government policy priorities
7. Improve support for the forestry sector to deliver against Welsh Government policy priorities through well targeted funding, advice and guidance
8. Promote the interests of forestry
9. Provide assurance of sufficient forestry skills in Natural Resources Wales
10. Reporting on progress.

Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government are already working with the forestry sector to develop an action plan with specific outcomes in order to progress these 10 key areas.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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As with all new organisations there is a period during which the inevitable changes to previous arrangements will be affected and this will bring with it some disappointment but I am sure that you will agree that the new organisation is making very good progress and I believe that this will continue. The staff and members of Natural Resources Wales take their work very seriously and, as our largest land management organisation, they are dedicated to delivering a continually improving service to the people of Wales. They have a big job to do and whilst it is early days yet, with support from their stakeholders and partners they will get stronger which is why I welcome the recommendations that the Committee has put forward to me in respect of this inquiry.

I regularly meet with the Chief Executive Officer of Natural Resources Wales as well as forestry sector representatives, and I will be reviewing the progress of the key areas with them. I am confident that we can look forward to positive and fruitful advances in this respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a vertical line.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol  
Minister for Natural Resources