

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd
a Materion Gwledig
Gwaith gwaddol
CCERA(5) LW 01
Ymateb gan Dr Ludivine Petetin

Welsh Parliament
Climate Change, Environment and Rural
Affairs Committee
Legacy work
CCERA(5) LW 01
Evidence from Dr Ludivine Petetin

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee has undertaken a tremendous work during the 5th Senedd. In particular, its scrutiny of the Agriculture Bills and Act and the future environmental governance framework for Wales.

There is one point that I would like to particularly highlight, that is the work of the CCERA Committee on the Agriculture Bill 2017-2019. Dr Dobbs and myself expressed concerned to the Committee as to the recentralisation of powers related to financial support for farmers and the design of support schemes across the UK

(<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=444&MID=5509>). This resulted in key conclusions (19 and 20) in the Report on the 'Legislative Consent Memorandum in relation to the UK Agriculture Bill' and ultimately led to a UK and Welsh Government Bilateral Agreement on WTO provisions creating a collaborative system between the two nations before DEFRA regulating on the classification of financial support (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agriculture-bill-progress-with-devolved-administrations/uk-and-welsh-government-bilateral-agreement-on-wto-provisions-within-the-agriculture-bill>).

Some of these concerns were further alleviated in the updated WTO provisions of the Agriculture Act 2020 (sections 43 to 45). Without the input of the Committee, it is likely that the WTO provisions in the Agriculture Act 2020 would have been further recentralised powers.

I would also hope that the scrutiny of the Committee will continue until the end of the 5th Senedd – especially if this is prolonged until the end of 2021 due to COVID-19. In particular, scrutiny of the current Welsh farming policy proposals (i.e. the White Paper on Agriculture) and the ones regarding the future of environmental governance in Wales

(<https://gov.wales/written-statement-environmental-governance-stakeholder-task-group-report>).

Finally, I want to thank the Committee (its members and staff) for the positive and impactful work they undertake. I also thank them for inviting me to provide evidence (both oral and written) on multiple occasions – it has always been a very happy and easy process.