

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Paul Davies MS
Chair, Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament

SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

21 November 2023

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 26 October, regarding the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) - Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (the Agreement).

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies has the potential to reduce instances of overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing globally. Providing the UK Government approaches implementation reasonably and collaboratively, I do not believe the terms of the Agreement will unduly restrict the Welsh Government's ability to support the sea fishing industry in Wales.

UK Government and Welsh Government officials had limited engagement before the Agreement was approved at the WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2022.

The main requirements of the new Agreement are to refrain from providing subsidies to wild catch fishing vessel operators in certain circumstances and enhanced subsidies transparency reporting in line with existing arrangements under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

From official level discussions, I expect existing financial assistance schemes, control and enforcement monitoring and data sharing procedures can be adapted to implement the Agreement in Wales. Legislation is not anticipated to be necessary. This will, however, remain under review while the practical steps to implement the Agreement across the UK's jurisdictions are developed and discussed with the UK and Devolved Governments.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
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