

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/6069/24

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

10 September 2024

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform you that my officials have been working in partnership with the UK Government on developing the Water (Special Measures) Bill. As you may know, the Bill was introduced into Parliament on 4 September 2024, please see attached together with the Explanatory Notes. The policy statement which accompanies the Bill is available at [Water \(Special Measures\) Bill: policy statement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/water-special-measures-bill).

The Bill was announced in the King's Speech on 17 July and reflects the UK Labour Government's manifesto commitment. The Bill demonstrates early action to improve water quality, which is a matter of great public concern. It addresses the perceived widespread failures by the water sector in addressing pollution caused by sewage discharges and aging infrastructure.

The Bill's provisions relate to the devolved matter of water industry and reserved matter of insolvency. I have agreed that some of the Bill's clauses will apply to Wales and sought equivalent powers for the Welsh Ministers to those of the Secretary of State. I believe this legislation will deliver positive changes and support the enforcement of regulatory requirements in the water sector, improving water company performance in Wales.

Following the laying of the Bill in Parliament, I am proposing to start the legislative consent process and support a legislative consent motion in the Senedd.

As the Bill has been developed at pace, my officials and I will continue to scrutinise the proposed measures and consider all the potential impacts for Wales throughout the Parliamentary process.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

I am keen for early engagement with yourself on this matter, so should you wish to discuss this further, please do let me know. I will also be raising this matter on the floor of the Senedd shortly.

I am also copying this letter to the Llywydd.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Huw Irranca-Davies'.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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