



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/LG/7973/16

Mark Reckless AM
Chair of the Committee on
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs

5 January 2017

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of 22 November, requesting additional information following my attendance at the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

The information you require is detailed below.

General Queries – Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation systems apply to all of our programmes and are tailored to specific programme requirements. However, in terms of providing examples where we do have robust monitoring and evaluation systems in place, I would like to detail those within the Rural Development Programme and the Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

Responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the EU Structural Funds Programmes and the Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Wales is managed by the Strategy Team within the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). The Strategy Team commission and manage all Programme and Scheme-level evaluations for these funds for the duration of the 2014-2020 Programming period. The main focus is to provide guidance and advice on monitoring and evaluation across the European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds in Wales.

An evaluation plan was published as a part of the Programming documents for the WG RC-RDP 2014-20 which can be found at <http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/160418-wales-rural-development-programme-2014-2020-document.pdf>

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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.

Additionally, within the RDP we have the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) which provides a comprehensive programme to monitor the impact of the Glastir scheme and contributes towards national trend data against a range of national and international biodiversity and environmental reporting requirements. The GMEP evidence base has also made a significant contribution to the State of Natural Resources Report and provides key data to a number of the Well Being of Future Generations indicators.

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework sets out our plan for continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals, whilst also helping to protect public health and making a contribution to the economy and the environment. Each year, the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group agree and publish an annual implementation plan. This outlines key priorities for the year and actions for delivery. The plan is subject to continuous review with a formal Mid Year and End of Year Review published.

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group which was established to support the implementation of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework also have a key function to ensure there is a continuous review of progress through their quarterly meetings. Further information on the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework, including copies of the implementation plan and published reviews can be accessed at: www.gov.wales/ahwframework

General Queries – Impact Assessments

This draft budget has seen minimal revenue budget reductions across my portfolio which tends to have the largest impacts on any protected groups. Although my capital budgets were reduced significantly over the four years, the additional investment arising from the Autumn Statement has mitigated much of any potential impacts. However, it is embedded practice that any impacts of the draft budget on protected groups are reviewed.

In terms of providing evidence of impact assessments on my policy or programme decisions can be seen by reviewing the RDP and Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

In 2013, Mott MacDonald were commissioned by the Welsh Government to undertake an EIA on the RDP 2014-20 to ensure the development, design and implementation of the RDP 2014-20 are accessible to all who are eligible to benefit from it. The EIA was sent out for consultation in July 2013 inviting comments and the EIA and comments were published.

Due to the nature of the RDP – it is a positive programme of investment, channelling funding into a range of interventions – it is highly unlikely that there will be any disproportionate negative impacts on any of the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010, or the Welsh language (as covered by the Welsh Language Act) as a result of the 2014-2020 RDP Programme.

The Programme is directed towards support for rural businesses, environmental protection, labour market participation and the alleviation of poverty (experienced by many members of equality groups), and support for rural communities; as such there are likely to be beneficial effects overall.

The inclusion of 'Equal Opportunities' as a cross cutting theme of the 2014-2020 Programme was mandatory, set out by the European Commission. From the outset, therefore, the Welsh Government was made aware of the need to include equality considerations in producing the Programme consultation documents. Equality was also incorporated in the brief and the methodology for the ex-ante evaluation of the 2014-2020 Structural Fund Programmes and RDP.

For example, Children in Wales (CIW) responded to the Consultation. "Children in Wales" is the national umbrella organisation in Wales, bringing organisations and individuals from all disciplines and sectors together. Its role is to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality in Wales. The CIW offered the following comments on the Wales RDP; in summary:

- "The report is very comprehensive and includes evidence to assess whether the Programme will have a positive impact or adverse effect on people from all the protected characteristics"

Regarding the Welsh Language, the 2014-2020 RDP offers significant opportunities to explore and promote interventions that inter-link the Welsh language and the vitality of the rural Wales economy. Given the nature of the RDP in Wales – being focussed on rural areas, which tend to contain far higher proportions of Welsh speakers than the urban centres –there is considerable potential for disproportionate benefits to be delivered to people who use the language.

In addition to the RDP Consultation, I can offer the development of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework as an example where the following assessments were undertaken;

- Equality impact assessment
- Welsh Language

Officials also considered the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a consequence, a children's version of the consultation was published followed by a children's version of the final Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework document. These documents can be viewed upon clicking on the links below.

<http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/140717-ahw-framework-childrens-version-en.pdf>

<https://documents.hf.wales.gov.uk/id:A6797283/document/versions/published>

Natural Resources – Outcomes and Outputs from the £1.575m NRMP

In 2012 The Welsh Government (WG) procured the Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (GMEP) in order to satisfy EU regulations and establish a robust evidence base to inform the management of natural resources.

The current contract is delivered by a consortium led by the Natural Environment Research Council's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Bangor station. The initial annual cost was £2 million; however, this has been reduced to £1.6 million through efficiency savings and cost sharing arrangements with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

GMEP is highly regarded by customers and stakeholders, including farming unions, research institutions and NGO's. It has been used on multiple occasions by the European Commission as an example of best practice and identified by the United Nations as an International exemplar.

The GMEP contract is due to expire in March 2017 and a successor programme is required. To help inform the design of a successor programme the WG and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) commissioned the GMEP Future Options Project. Full report available for download from <https://gmep.wales/resources#nrmf>

The project found a clear economic, policy and evidence rationale for a new integrated monitoring framework and identified 10 key recommendations (summarised as follows);

1. Working collaboratively the Welsh monitoring community should develop an Integrated Natural Resources Monitoring Framework (NRMF). This will make more effective use of people and funding and deliver increased benefits.
2. NRMF should service the needs of a wide customer base for natural resources evidence across Cabinet, NRW and partners.
3. A Coordination Board should be established that is representative of evidence users and providers. This will deliver an adaptive approach to monitoring, to improve the resilience of our natural resources and ecosystems and increase benefits.
4. The community should take advantage of the NRMF domestically and internationally to build capacity, increase co-funding and investment into Wales..
5. The NRMF should embrace, improve and integrate monitoring methods and technologies and in so doing deliver and benefit from innovation, new opportunities and make more effective use of resources. This approach will improve strategic deployment of resources ensuring an ongoing improvement programme.
6. The NRMF should follow the principle of collect once – reuse often. It should be a key source of data and evidence underpinning the Environment and the Well Being of Future Generations Acts.
7. NRMF should adopt a clear approach to efficient and effective sharing of data to enable the conversion of data into robust evidence products to increase the value and utility of data.
8. The NRMF should include a modelling and scenario testing component to underpin data interpretation. This will support the ongoing development of more robust policies which optimise the social and economic benefits derived from our natural resources and ecosystems in the long term.
9. To realise the significant benefits of this integrated framework a three phased approach over 5 years is required to convert the ambition into a practical programme.
10. The NRMF should increase engagement across Welsh Government, public, private and voluntary sectors.

Based on the 10 recommendations a benefits realisation exercise identified that the new integrated framework will:

- Make better use of resources (financial and social) across the monitoring community;
- Better inform wider Welsh Government policy;
- Enable more adaptive, responsive and targeted management of natural resources;
- Be a key evidence source for National Natural Resource Policy including the State of Natural Resources Report and a wider range of legislative requirements;
- Provide more accurate, timely and efficient delivery of data, evidence and information;
- Deliver integration of expertise, data and technologies;

Climate Change – Funding for UKCCC and delay in Sectoral Adaptation Plans

The UK Committee on Climate Change (UKCCC) is jointly-sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government will be providing core funding of £149,473 to the UKCCC for 2016-17.

Some of the advice around the Environment Act provisions will be provided as part of the core funding already given to the UKCCC. We are undertaking discussions with the UKCCC around the further advice needed and will not be able to give a specific figure yet, until the detail of the work has been agreed.

Sectoral Adaptation Plans are one of the mechanisms included in our Climate Change Strategy's Delivery Plan, for different sectors to respond to the medium to longer term impacts and opportunities of climate change. It was the responsibility of the sectors themselves to develop plans to ensure they were appropriate and useful to their sectors. Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been developed to varying degrees across the sectors. For example, the Business and Tourism sector have concentrated their efforts on developing tools and guidance. The Health sector has a plan in place which is currently under review in light of the new evidence from the UKCCC. In planning and delivering our transport infrastructure we ensure resilience to climate change is a key consideration to developing a truly sustainable transport system.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act strengthens the legislative basis on climate change adaptation, providing statutory requirements on the Public Sector in Wales to consider the latest evidence on climate change when carrying out well-being assessments and developing its plans. This will ensure resilience is built at a local as well as a national level.

We have received new evidence from The UKCCC over the summer, which outlines its assessment of the risks to Wales from climate change. We will be reviewing our national policy in light of this evidence, and will be engaging with sectors to determine how we might deliver on this policy most effectively in the future.

In the meantime, we have successfully delivered on the urgent actions within the Delivery Plan, responding to the short term risks by protecting vulnerable people and increasing resilience of communities and businesses.

Planning – The cut to the Planning revenue budget

The revenue budget for Planning and Building Regulations in 2016 – 2017 is £5,779. This amount has been reduced by 10% for 2017–18 to £5,201.

Against this background and the reality of declining budgets and reduced application numbers a strategic decision to close the Aggregate Levy Fund for Wales from next April has been made. This will yield £400,000 of the £579,000 savings which have to be found from Planning Directorate’s programme budget for 2017-18.

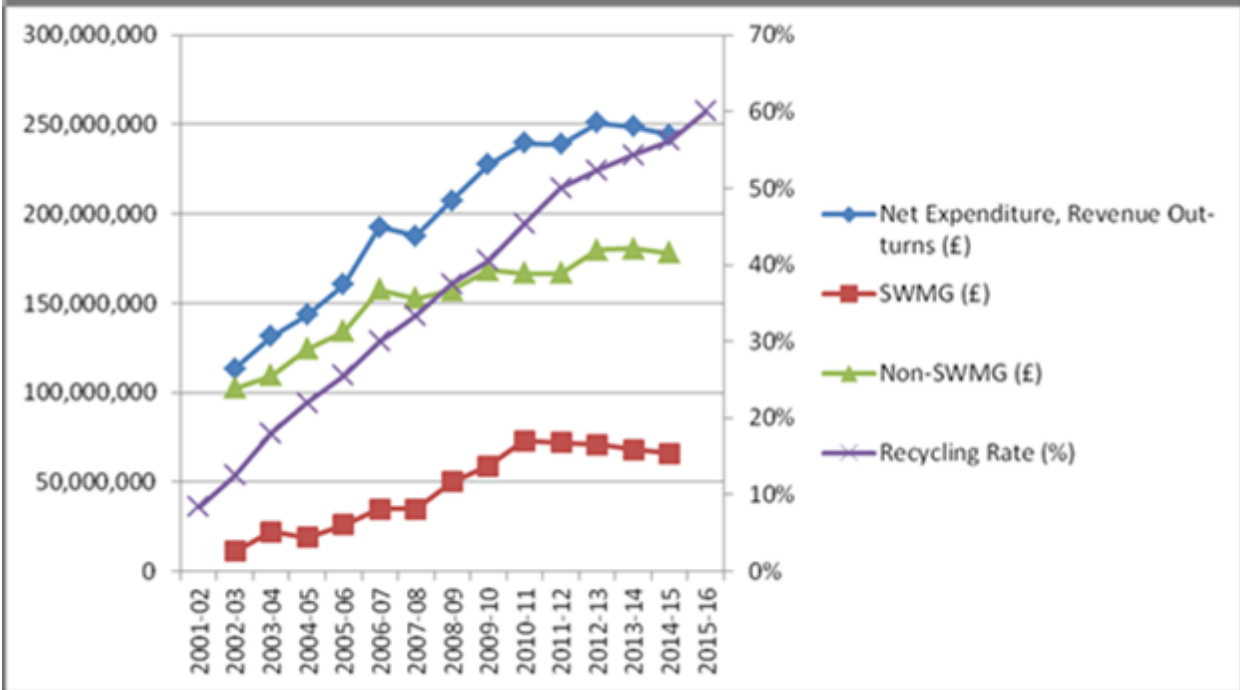
The remainder of the savings (£179K) will be made by reducing funding to implement the Positive Planning Programme.

Energy – Local Energy Service

The Local Energy Service has allocated funding to 20 projects. The table in the Annex sets out the detail for each project. We have allocated £0.210m in grants and £3.622m in loans. A further 32 projects have received non-financial support, mainly in the form of advice from the Local Energy Service’s development officers.

Waste – Budget reduction and waste recycling rates

It is my assessment that local authorities will be able to meet future recycling targets even with reduced funding of waste and recycling services. Local authority spending on waste and recycling has reduced over recent years whilst recycling rates have continued to increase (see graph):



There has been a move from the disposal of residual waste in landfill to its treatment in Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities. The gate fees for EfW are lower than for landfill leading to significant financial savings.

The Collaborative Change Programme (CCP) of the Welsh Government, delivered by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Cymru, is supporting local authorities to develop more efficient waste and recycling services. Support includes optimising route design, procuring vehicles and equipment with the potential to reduce revenue costs, marketing materials to optimise income from their sale and other initiatives. The CCP has identified the potential for further efficiencies through operational improvements.

Local authorities have invested in fleets, depots and equipment and this infrastructure is available to manage higher rates of recycling. Recycling is usually a lower cost option than EfW or landfill disposal as local authorities divert material from treatment/disposal to recycling.

A recent analysis of the composition of municipal waste in Wales shows that more than half the material in residual (black bag) waste is easily recyclable. If half of this were diverted for recycling, local authority recycling across Wales would exceed the 2024-25 recycling target of 70%. This can be done at minimal cost using infrastructure that is already in place.

European funding support for agriculture and rural development

Funds transferred from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 of the CAP have been allocated to schemes across the RDP, including Glastir and the Sustainable Production Grant Scheme. It is too early in the programme to identify whether the transfer has yielded a return on investment; however, all socio-economic projects are assessed for value for money as one of the key selection criteria used for the selection of projects. Glastir options have been assessed through independent verification to ensure value for money. Return on investment and value for money may also be assessed during scheme and project evaluations throughout the programme.

As with all EU programmes, regular re-profiling is essential to ensure the maximum and most effective use of EU funds, in particular in response to changes in exchange rates over the lifetime of the programme. Re-profiling is also needed in order to reflect changes in priorities as the programme and the needs of rural communities develop. However, any re-profiling does not alter the forecast investment in the RDP over the programme period.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016

I am confident and adamant we focus on sustainable development as the central organising principle, making decisions, such as budget development, take full account of the social and environmental objectives and impacts. In so doing, we have adopted an approach to embed collaboration, integration, long term, prevention and engagement into our policies and delivery as we take account of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

During the draft budget, my officials reviewed every budget line in detail, which included how the budget or programme contributed to our priorities of Programme for Government, assessment of value for money, contribution to preventative spend, and how it contributed to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. I then reviewed each budget working paper and made my investment decisions using this evidence. This was the process used for every budget movement which I highlighted in my evidence paper.

For example, I re-allocated an additional £1.834m to the “Develop and deliver overarching policy and programmes on Agriculture, Food and Marine Action” in order to provide additional funding in respect of the Natural Resources Monitoring Programme (NRMP) and the Commons Act as well as realignment to reflect current forecasts on County Parish Holdings (CPH) and Electronic Identification (EID) Cymru developments.

The NRMP is covered within the budget for Technical agricultural and environmental advice (BEL 2864) which is crucial for meeting our obligations under the Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive. The regulations implementing these Directives in Wales directly support the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Principle and each of the Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 principles and our policy aspiration in the Water Strategy for Wales to tackle diffuse pollution in Wales.

I have significant evidence of how my budgets are reviewed in line with the Wellbeing of Future generations Act, and I would be happy to share any of this detailed information should the committee wish to review this further.

I am also aware of the recently published report on the Draft Budget 2017-18 by the Finance Committee where it recommends that Welsh Government explore how an effective strategic impact assessment could better identify how the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act has influenced budget decisions. I am fully supportive of exploring this and will discuss such matters with the cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in due course.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

Project name	Size (kW)	Technology	Local Authority	Constituency	Grant offered	Loan offered
Bodfel Hall	900	Wind	Gwynedd	Aberconwy	£4,248.00	
Mynydd y Gwrhyd Wind Development	4700	Wind	Neath and Port Talbot	Swansea East		£3,550,000.00
BABS 5MW Solar	5000	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West		£60,000.00
Bonwm Hydro	93	Hydro	Denbighshire	Clwyd West	£792.00	
Wonderbank Solar	1000	Solar	Denbighshire	Denbighshire	£792.00	
Oernant Farm	500	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£4,056.00	
Afon Galedffrwd	100 or 231	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£11,534.50	
Brynwhilach 5MW solar	5000	Hydro	Swansea	Swansea West	£7,000.00	
Ffrwd Farm Wind	500	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£25,243.00	
Wonderbank Solar Farm	250 to 1000	Solar	Wrexham	Clwyd West	£792.00	
Cwm Bychan	27	Hydro	Gwynedd	Dwyfor Meirionnydd	£897.00	
SYDIC	500	Wind	Caerphilly	Caerphilly	£960.00	
Swansea PV Project	427	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West	£26,286.00	
Troed y Bryn	180	Wind	Ceredigion	Ceredigion	£11,398.04	£12,000.00
Cwmsaebren	33	Hydro	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rhondda	£2,820.00	
Y Felin Ddwr Energy Farm	1000	Solar	Swansea	Swansea West	£28,320.00	
Nant y Fran	900	Wind	Anglesey	Ynys Mon	£1,750.50	
Bethesda CESCO Trial	100	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£48,850.00	
Afon Goch	55	Hydro	Gwynedd	Arfon	£16,335.00	
Mynachdy Wind Project	450	Wind	Rhondda Cynon Taff	Rhondda Cynon Taf	£18,000.00	



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Animal Health & Welfare in Wales

A young person's consultation on the new framework

www.cymru.gov.uk



Introduction

The way that people look after animals in Wales is really important.

The Welsh Government wants to make sure that animal health and welfare is the best it can be.

This means we want all animals to:

- be protected from pain, suffering, injury and diseases;
- have the right shelters and places to live;
- have healthy diets; and
- have everything else they need to have healthy normal lives.

Animal health and welfare is important for everyone.

The way that animals are bred, and looked after can make a real difference to people's lives.

This is because it can stop the spread of diseases, help create extra jobs in communities and make the farming industry in Wales stronger.



To make sure that this is happening, we want to make some changes and make a new plan called the

Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales.

This Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales will have the steps we need to take to reach our goals. It will also show us when we reach these goals so we can see how our plans are working and bringing positive results.

Having this new framework in place would mean that Wales can:

- focus on the end results we want to see in animals lives;
- make sure that everyone living in Wales understands their part and responsibility to improve animal health and welfare; and
- make sure that all government policies and services are working together to improve animal health and welfare.

What animals will this affect?

The framework will cover the health and welfare of:

- all farm livestock like cows and sheep;
- all kinds of pets;
- working animals like horses or dogs;
- animals involved in sports like horses; and
- animals that are a part of aquaculture or aqua-farming like salmon, shellfish and others.

It will also cover wildlife where anything we do such as farming could affect their health or welfare or where there is a risk of disease.

This booklet tells you about the changes we want to make and we want to know what you think about them.

Why do we need a new Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales?

There are lots of different plans and government policies in place across the UK and Europe that set out rules for animal health and welfare.

One of these is 'The Great Britain Animal Health and Welfare Strategy'. This plan has done a lot of good things for animals across all of the UK including Wales but it ends in 2014.

We want to replace it with this new framework because it will help us focus more on the needs of Wales. It will also give us a better way to check on animal health and welfare so we get better end results.

This will mean we can:

- make sure that animal health and welfare is something that carries on and is at the heart of future plans for Wales;
- work in partnership better with the farming industry;
- link to other Welsh Government plans and policies better;
- focus on any problems and issues we have in different parts of Wales;
- help us to work with food and drinks industry;
- help create more jobs in farming and other businesses in Wales;
- use our money better; and
- help us reach our goals.

Question 1

Do you agree that we need this new Animal Health and Welfare Framework for Wales?

Yes No Don't know

Comment



This new framework

We want this new framework to give us steps towards our goals and show us clear evidence when we reach positive end results.

Having all the steps in place to make sure that animal health and welfare improves across Wales is really important.

This new framework will help everyone by:

- giving everyone the same steps to follow that help us reach the end results we want for animal health and welfare across Wales;
- helping us to work in partnership better with government departments, businesses and farming so we all have the same goals;
- giving us a way to check up and monitor what is happening;
- showing us if we need to make changes;
- giving us clear reports and evidence on how we are doing;
- giving us a system that can carry on for as long as we need; and
- making a real difference to other goals we have for Welsh Communities, the environment and the economy.

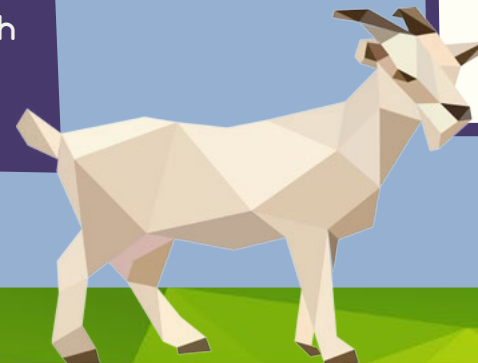
Question 2

This framework focuses on showing how we are making a difference, by showing end results and outcomes.

Do you think is a good idea?

Yes No Don't know?

Comment



What results will this framework measure?

We think because of this new framework we will see positive changes that make a real difference.

There are five different end results that we want this framework to measure.

1. Wales has healthy productive animals.
2. Animals in Wales have a good quality of life.

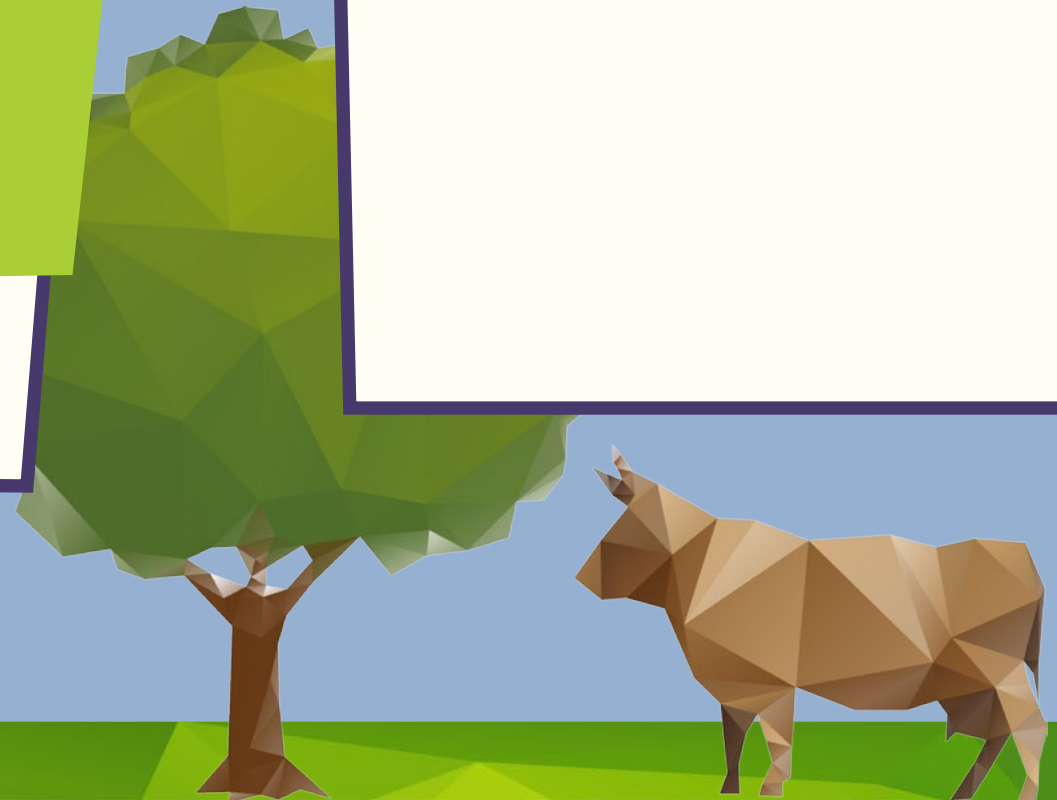
We call these **direct outcomes** because they are the main results and goals of this new framework.

Question 3

Do you agree that this new framework could have these direct outcomes?

Yes No Don't know?

Comment



What other results will this framework measure?

We also think having this framework in place will help make sure:

3. People have trust and confidence in the way food is produced and the way public health is protected.
4. Wales has more jobs, businesses and a growing thriving economy.
5. Wales has a better environment.

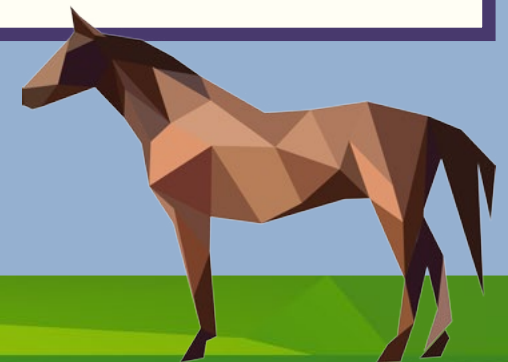
We call these **indirect outcomes** because they are not the main goals of the framework but we believe they will happen.

Question 4

Do you agree that this framework could have these indirect outcomes?

Yes No Don't know?

Comment



How will this framework work?

There are many different ways that we can make sure that this new framework does what we want it to do.

Some of these include:

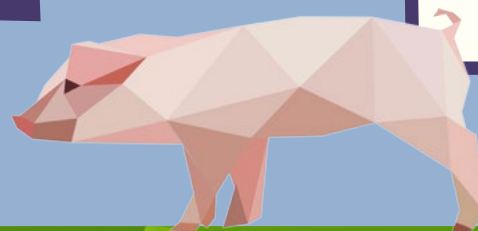
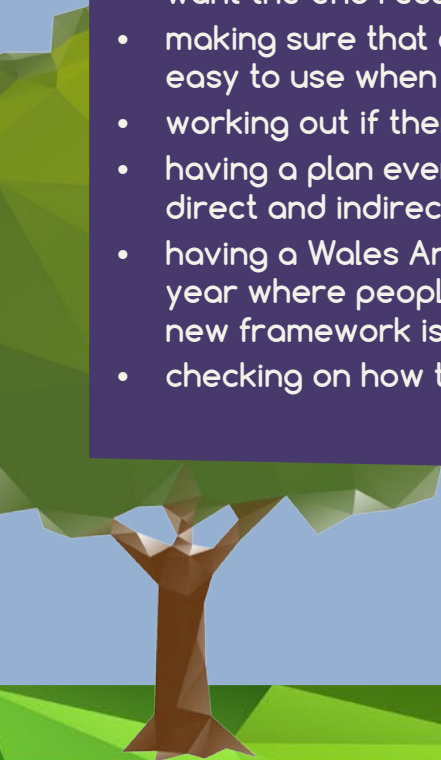
- having a Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group that includes professionals and government officials;
- adding indicators or measuring points to this framework that help us track what we are doing and what we need to work on;
- develop a Programme of Outcomes that shows us what we want the end results to be;
- making sure that all information is available, up to date and easy to use when it is needed;
- working out if there are any gaps in the information;
- having a plan every year on how we want to reach our five direct and indirect impact results;
- having a Wales Animal Health and Welfare event every year where people can report back and check on how this new framework is working; and
- checking on how this framework is working after five years.

Question 5

Do you think these different ways are enough?

Yes No Don't know?

Which of them do you think will work best?



How long will this framework be in place for?

We think that this framework should be in place for 10 years but we will check on how it is working and make changes if we need to.

Question 6

Do you think 10 years is the right amount of time?

Yes No Don't know?

How long do you think?

Do you think there is anything we have missed out in these plans?

Thank you for reading this

You can send your answers to:

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e-mail:

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