



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair  
Climate Change, Rural Affairs and Environment Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

8

July 2018

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 25<sup>th</sup> June and the copy of the Committee's report on environmental governance.

I welcome the Committee's interest in this important area. We've got a good story to tell in Wales on environmental principles and governance which has brought us an international recognition. I am determined to build on this and ensure that the progress we have made is not impacted by Brexit.

As a Government we have already committed to addressing the environmental governance gap at the first proper legislative opportunity. It is important to take the time to engage with stakeholders and we have already begun engaging with through my Brexit Roundtable. It is important that as well as engaging with environmental bodies that we do so on a cross-sectoral basis as many sectors have a direct interest this area.

As requested, I would be happy to respond in due course to each of the recommendations in your report by your 8<sup>th</sup> August deadline. In the interim, in response to your request to know if there are any recommendations that potentially raise any issues, I would offer the following comments:

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

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.

- Several of the recommendations and recommendation six in particular, do not appear to fully take into account the content of the legislation already passed by the Assembly in terms of principles and governance. Through the Well-being of Future Generations and Environment Acts, we have already placed both sustainable development and key environmental principles into primary legislation. In Wales there is also a different structure with respect to key public bodies in this area.
- Given that the nature of the governance gap in Wales is materially different from any other part of the UK, it is important that any proposals neither conflict with nor have a regressive effect on our existing legislation and governance structures.
- As well as the need to align with and compliment Wales' world-leading approach the alignment with the international framework should be clear.

I am grateful for the opportunity to input at this stage. As emphasised within your report this is an important issue and it is vital that work to review and address the governance gap is not rushed as any decisions will have long term implications.

Regards  
Lesley

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs