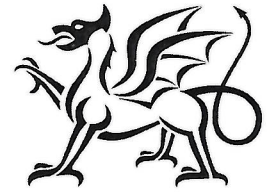


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-815
Ein cyf/Our ref: LG/01234/18

David John Rowlands AM
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National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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3 July 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 21 June, regarding the control of intensive poultry in Wales.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) already considers cumulative impacts in the environmental permitting process. The emissions from proposed new intensive poultry installations are assessed by NRW in the context of existing background levels of ammonia and nitrogen. These background levels will reflect the contributions made by various sources, not only those subject to environmental permitting. NRW then makes a comparison against established safe limits for sensitive habitats and will only issue an environmental permit where the environment will be protected. NRW's guidance on this subject has been made available to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to assist them in making their own assessments of impact in the context of planning applications.

Determining planning applications in accordance with their Local Development Plan provides LPAs with the opportunity to comprehensively consider in-combination or cumulative effects of existing poultry units. This includes any in-combination or cumulative effects of noise, smells, pollution and health. The Chief Planner recently issued a letter to LPAs reminding them to take into account the cumulative impacts resulting from similar developments nearby. It advised about the need to exercise particular care when considering planning applications which bring livestock units and residential or sensitive environmental areas close together. The letter also provided an opportunity to local authorities to contribute to work looking at how cumulative analysis of nitrate and ammonia emissions can be better assessed.

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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.

Officials are currently exploring the opportunities for reducing emissions across a range of sectors, including agriculture, within the broader context of the Welsh Government's plans to improve air quality in Wales and the UK's targets to reduce overall emissions of certain pollutants under the provisions of the National Emission Ceilings Directive.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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