

**Grwp yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol
Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group**

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol – Director General



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Mr Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

20 December 2018

Dear Adrian

**Response to the Report of the Wales Audit Office on the Managing the Impact of Brexit
on the Rural Development Programme for Wales**

I welcome the publication of the above report and the findings set out within in. I am pleased to set out at Annex A the Welsh Government's response to the two recommendations contained within the report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Slade', written in a cursive style.

ANDREW SLADE
Director General
Economy, Skills and natural Resources

Parc Cathays/Cathays Park
Caerdydd/Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Recommendation 1

The current scrutiny arrangements for the management and delivery of the RDP should be improved. A scrutiny forum should allow sufficient attention for the detailed consideration of the programme by informed and engaged members based on clear and accurate information. In particular, the reporting and consideration of 'commitments' should be clear.

Response: Accepted

Welsh Government is in the process of thoroughly reviewing the scrutiny arrangements for the management and delivery of the RDP. Both the RDP Policy Board and RDP Management Board will be re-established, to ensure high level and operational level scrutiny is improved and consistent. We will consider how to more effectively support PMC members as part of this action to ensure their continued effective scrutiny.

This will be in place by the end of the current financial year.

Recommendation 2

Risk management arrangements for the RDP should be clarified and documented so that officers and departments understand their responsibilities and to ensure that all risks with the RDP, and in particular in the context of Brexit, are appropriately identified and managed.

Response: Accepted

Welsh Government are reviewing risk management process as part of the overall review of RDP governance arrangements. Officials in different parts of Welsh Government will contribute to the risk management process which will be overseen by the RDP Policy Board.

This will be in place by the end of the current financial year

In addition to the above actions, we will review the points raised in paragraph 11 of the report. This will be conducted as part of the overarching work to respond to the scrutiny and risk arrangements planned in recommendations 1 and 2.