

Response to the Report of the National Assembly for Wales Public Accounts Committee Report on Natural Resources Wales Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

Provided by: Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Date: 11 January 2019

The Welsh Government welcomes the findings of the report and offer the following responses to the three recommendations contained within it.

Recommendation 1 - We recommend that Natural Resources Wales share with this Committee the findings of the independent review following its completion, scheduled for late 2018. The review's findings must be made publicly available.

Accept – Natural Resources Wales will respond to the Committee directly on this recommendation. However, it is our understanding NRW will provide the Committee with the findings of the independent review and publish it on their website. . We expect this to be in time for NRW's next session with the Committee in February 2019.

Recommendation 2 - The Committee recommends that Natural Resources Wales produces an action plan with clear timescales and delivery objectives. These plans must set out the changes required to its operation arising from the independent review. Natural Resources Wales must share these plans with the Committee when finalised.

Accept – Natural Resources Wales will respond to the Committee directly on this recommendation. We understand NRW will provide the Committee with an action plan as part of their evidence for their next session with the Committee in February 2019.

Recommendation 3 - We recommend that should the independent review findings on the failures of governance be insufficient, that the Welsh Government ensures that there is an immediate comprehensive review of governance within Natural Resources Wales, examining how these failure were able to occur.

Accept – On receipt of the findings of the independent review, and taking into account the evidence NRW will give to the Committee in February, Welsh Government will consider whether any further action is necessary. I will update the Committee following this.