

Mr Nick Ramsay  
Chair, Public Accounts Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

14 January 2019

## **Response to the Public Accounts Committee Report on Natural Resources Wales: Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18**

Thank you for the Public Accounts Committee Report on the above, published on 26 November 2018. Natural Resources Wales acknowledges and accepts the findings of the report and offers the following response 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** – The independent review by Grant Thornton will be completed in January 2019. We will provide the Committee with the findings of the independent review prior to the Committee meeting of 11 February 2019. The findings will also be published on the Natural Resources Wales website.

**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** – We will provide the Committee with an action plan as part of our evidence for our 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 failures were able to occur.

**Accept** – This recommendation is not a matter for Natural Resources Wales directly and we understand that Welsh Government will respond on this recommendation.

The findings and the action plan referred to in the response to recommendations 1 and 2 will be discussed at the Natural Resources Wales Board meeting in January. Due to the timing of the Board, the evidence will be provided to you by the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare Pillman', with a horizontal line underneath.

Clare Pillman  
**Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru**  
**Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales**

CC. Sir David Henshaw  
Cadeirydd, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Chair, Natural Resources Wales