



Our ref: MA-P-LG-0183-19

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

7 February 2019

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of 11 January in which you summarised certain stakeholders' views on the 'Achieving our low carbon pathway to 2030' consultation.

We are using consultation responses to help develop the first Low Carbon Delivery Plan (LCDP), which we will publish next month, and also, more importantly, to inform future policy and plans. Later this year, we will publish a response to the consultation which will address specific points and concerns raised by stakeholders. In the meantime I would like to address several points raised in your letter.

You report some stakeholders criticised a lack of detail, costs and impact assessments in the consultation. Previous stakeholder feedback has suggested they want to be involved in the early stages of policy development and delivery planning, before actions have been confirmed. As I have highlighted in previous letters, we were not required to formally consult however, in the spirit of openness and inclusion, we sought to engage at the beginning of the 2030 pathway when ideas are at an early stage. The consultation made clear our commitment to undertake cost and impact assessments as and when ideas are developed into policy.

I do not believe there is a gap in expert and stakeholder advice. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) is a world-renowned organisation and in passing the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the National Assembly for Wales designated them as the default statutory advisory body. Whilst it is true there is no longer an over-arching stakeholder body, sectors across Government engage with their stakeholders in various formats. The consultation included a proposal to create an industry-led working group and asked a specific question on how we can encourage more collaboration and engagement.

I am wary of duplicating your Committee's Climate Change Expert Reference Group but intend to provide more opportunities for cross-sector engagement in future, following positive feedback at the consultation and wider decarbonisation events we have held over the last few years.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
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.

The commission for advice on our long-term targets requires the CCC to produce their advice in accordance with our statutory framework, which of course includes the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We will share the stakeholders' views of previous advice with the CCC. One way of improving the situation may be for the Act to feature strongly in any future calls for evidence issued by the CCC. This would provide stakeholders with a good opportunity to help the CCC develop its expertise on this matter.

Over the last few years, we have been working hard to embed the ways of working throughout the Decarbonisation Programme. For example, to promote the consultation last summer we held events, involved young people through a young person's consultation, ran a webinar with the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action and promoted the consultation on social media. In developing the Climate Change (Wales) Regulations last year, we adopted a new approach to Regulatory Impact Assessment by considering how achieving Welsh and global targets might contribute to the well-being goals by reducing the impacts of climate change.

We will publish a Sustainability Appraisal report alongside the LCDP which will demonstrate how we have been applying the five ways of working and maximising the Plan's contribution to the well-being goals. In addition, we are working to draw out the links between decarbonisation and other policy areas. We have developed a policy-making tool to help officials understand the inter-related nature of their work and enhance their policy's contribution to decarbonisation and the well-being goals.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that curves back under the word.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs