

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our Ref: MA-L/LG/0092/19

Mr Mike Hedges AM
Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Pierhead Street
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales

13 February 2019

Dear Mike

At the committee meeting of 24 January I offered to provide an update, following Fisheries and Marine Senior Steering Group meetings, in relation to concerns regarding clause 18 of the draft UK Fisheries Bill.

The Fisheries and Marine Senior Steering Group (FMSSG) comprises of senior officials from the four administrations. The FMSSG meets regularly to discuss a range of issues associated with the UK's exit from the European Union, providing both a forum for open official level discussion between the Administrations, and joint governance arrangements.

Officials have discussed clause 18 of the draft Bill on a number of occasions. I am advised officials have registered my concerns on this matter and have asked DEFRA to consider and respond, taking into account the existing intergovernmental principles and practices on co-operative working.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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 UK Government understands my concerns with the way the Bill is drafted, and how the powers could be exercised. They have assured me it is not their intention to exercise the functions in this way, and are keen to work with us to provide the reassurance I require. I expect this will be forthcoming soon, however discussion are ongoing.

I will provide a further update to Committee, following the conclusion of these discussions.

During the session a question was raised regarding 'ghost fishing'. I would like to clarify for the committee, provisions are made in relation to ghost fishing within the legislation which is being saved under the Withdrawal Act process. The appropriateness of these provisions will be considered as we develop a new post EU fisheries policy for Wales with stakeholders.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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

Cc: Mr Mick Antoniw AM
Chair of Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee