



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/LG/1087/19

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair – Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales

1st April 2019

Dear Nick,

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT
National Assembly for Wales Public Accounts Committee Report on Natural Resources Wales Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18

Further to my letter of 10 January with a response to the above report, I advised the Welsh Government accepted the third recommendation and I would follow up on this issue to the Committee by the end of March 2019.

I have considered the independent review by Grant Thornton and the evidence supplied by the Interim Chair and Chief Executive to PAC on 11 February 2019. I am confident the independent review of the Governance of Timber has provided a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the issues. I do not, therefore, see a need for a further review, believing NRW should focus on implementing the measures needed to respond to the issues raised.

I have a regular series of meetings with the Chief Executive and Interim Chair of NRW, and my officials have quarterly Sponsorship Committee meetings with the NRW Executive team. Both of these allow for ongoing dialogue and monitoring of progress in addressing performance and issues.

We are both aware the independent review has raised some issues which you have acknowledged will not be resolved overnight. I agree with you we need to give the Chief Executive and Interim Chair the support and space they need to address the issues.

During the PAC discussion with NRW, you commented you believe cultural changes are required within NRW. I think we are agreed in our confidence in the Interim Chair and Chief Executive to continue to make great changes to the leadership of the organisation. This, in turn, should positively impact the whole organisation.

I understand the PAC will next take evidence from NRW on 9 December 2019. I thank the Committee for this space to allow NRW to put in place the actions they have identified.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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