

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-869
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06122/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

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June 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 30 May, regarding petition P-05-869 'Declare a Climate Emergency and fit all policies with zero-carbon targets'.

We fully recognise the urgency of tackling climate change, both here in Wales and internationally and that is why Wales was the first Parliament in the world to vote in favour of the declaration of a climate emergency to strengthen and galvanise action at home and internationally, from our own communities, businesses and organisations, to Parliaments and Governments around the world.

Declaring a climate emergency signals our commitment to continue to raise our ambition and do even more to provide the basis for collective action on climate change across our economy and society. This builds on Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales which contains detailed sector-by-sector emissions profiles and 100 policies and proposals to achieve a low-carbon Wales. The plan is the start of our response to the climate emergency and makes our position clear – we believe we must continuously raise our ambition in order to meet the challenge of climate change and to secure maximum benefits for the wellbeing of Wales through the transition to a low carbon economy. We are reviewing the actions in the plan to see where further action can be taken following the declaration. We have also started preparing our next plan of measures to meet the second carbon budget for 2021-26 and it must go further and faster.

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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.

Following our declaration, we have also committed to review our long term targets. In response to a request from the Welsh, Scottish and UK Governments to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) published 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' on 2 May. It includes a recommendation for the Welsh Government to legislate for at least a 95% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions against the 1990 baseline by 2050. This represents a substantial change from the existing 'at least 80%' target in the Environment (Wales) Act.

On 2 May I issued a Written Statement welcoming the CCC report and committing us to reviewing our 2050 target and reporting back to the National Assembly before setting the third carbon budget by the end of 2020. I have already asked the CCC to provide further recommendations next year on what the advice means for our existing interim targets and carbon budgets in the context of our Well-being of Future Generations Act. I am particularly keen we explore all opportunities to build on the advice and identify where we can achieve even more rapid decarbonisation that will realise even greater benefits for Wales' wellbeing.

However, the scale of the challenge requires all levels of society from government and business to communities and individuals to take action and we need to work with others to really achieve a low carbon and more prosperous and healthy Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regards" on the top line and "Lesley" on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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