



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Mike Hedges AM
Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales

Dear Mike

7 February 2019

I would like to thank you and the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee again for your work and the detailed report published on 16 October 2018 entitled 'The impact of Brexit on fisheries in Wales'. In addition to my letter in response to the committee on 27 November 2018 I agreed to update you further on 4 topics discussed in your report.

Recommendation 2: The Welsh Government should report back to the Committee within the next 12 weeks on discussions it has had with the UK Government about future fisheries policy. This should include discussions about the proposed common framework for fisheries management and any proposals for an inter-governmental mechanism to facilitate agreement between the UK Administrations on common frameworks, including fisheries policy.

The Welsh Government officials have been working closely with UK and devolved counterparts on future fisheries policy. The UK Fisheries Bill makes provision for a jointly agreed policy statement to underpin the legislative and non legislative elements of the framework. The Bill is still being discussed in UK Parliament and I will be pleased to update the committee at the conclusion of these discussions.

Recommendation 3: The Welsh Government must ensure that it engages on an ongoing basis with representatives from across the entire fisheries sector. It should report back to this Committee within the next 12 weeks on actions it will take to broaden engagement.

The Welsh Government has established and worked closely with a number of fisheries and marine stakeholder groups which meet regularly. These groups represent a broad cross-section of the views of all stakeholders.

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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.

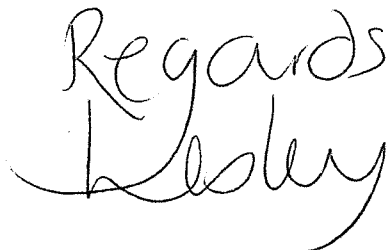
Recommendation 4: The Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within the next 12 weeks on whether it believes its capacity on fisheries policy, both in terms of staffing numbers and expertise, is sufficient in the short term. The Welsh Government should also report back to this Committee on any plans it has to increase capacity in those areas.

We still maintain that we have sufficient capacity in relation to fisheries policy and we are seeking to increase capacity to deal with short term work to prepare for exit from the European Union. This remains an adaptive plan responding proactively to the developing EU Exit situation, and as the Committee has expressed an interest, we will undertake to write should the situation change.

Recommendation 5: The Welsh Government should report back to this Committee within 12 weeks on its plans to increase domestic demand for Welsh fish and shellfish.

The Welsh Government recognises the value of seafood as a sustainable protein source for future generations. We are committed to engaging with key stakeholders to seek to increase domestic consumption and have funded a seafood marketing project, in the region of £1m through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund. We have developed and contributed to recipes in Seafish consumer campaigns, we will continue to promote Welsh products at trade events and the Welsh Government funded Seafood Cluster has also been in dialogue with UK based retailers.

I welcome your continued interest in this area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Regards' on the top line and 'Lesley' on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs