

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Chair

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Huw.Irranca-Davies@senedd.wales

23rd March 2023

Dear Huw,

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I wish to inform you a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was held on 6 March 2023.

I chaired the meeting, which was also attended by: Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Islands, Scottish Government; Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy, and Biodiversity from Scottish Government; Rebecca Pow MP, Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience, Mark Spencer MP, Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, James Davies MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, John Lamont MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the Scotland Office, Steve Baker MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office from UK Government; and Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary, DAERA in the absence of Northern Ireland ministers.

The meeting opened with a discussion on the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill which is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Each Government provided updates on their respective approaches to identify and categorise REUL, commending the positive engagement between the administrations in this area. They also discussed the Parliamentary legislative programmes necessary to retain, repeal or reform individual items of legislation.

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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.

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The Scottish Government then gave an update on the progress of their Deposit Return Schemes and a discussion was held on Scottish Government's request for an exclusion from the UK Internal Market Act.

I then raised the current food shortages and food security, highlighting the need for collaboration on this cross-UK issue. We discussed the ongoing cumulative effects of issues such as the war in Ukraine, labour shortages and how climate change is having an impact on food supply. We agreed to discuss this item further at the April IMG.

Finally, the Scottish Government and I raised the lack of progress on various animal welfare legislation and requested an update in writing.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17 April.

A communique regarding this meeting will be published on the UK Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/communique-from-the-inter-ministerial-group-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs>.

I am copying this letter to the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee and to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Regards,

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