

Julie James MS,
Minister for Climate Change

Lee Waters MS,
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

2 July 2021

Dear Minister and Deputy Minister

Welsh Government priorities in relation to climate change, environment and infrastructure

I would like to offer my congratulations to you both on your appointments to key Ministerial roles in the Welsh Government. The policy areas within your portfolios present some of the most significant challenges of our time for Wales and the planet.

You will be aware that I was elected as the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee on 29 July. Although it is yet to be fully established, I expect that the Committee will start its work in the 6th Senedd by determining its initial priorities. This will be informed by consultation and discussion with stakeholders and experts.

I believe it is important that this work is informed by your priorities as Ministers. I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with information in writing as soon as possible about your priorities for the next 12-18 months across your portfolios. In particular, I would be grateful for an update from you on your ambitions and plans for COP26. Our predecessor Committee recommended that we should prioritise work on the next Low Carbon Delivery Plan. I would be grateful if you would confirm when you expect the plan to be published and give a commitment to share a draft of the plan with the Committee.



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Ideally, this information should be provided in advance of the Committee's meeting in the week commencing 12 July. If this is not achievable, I would be grateful to receive the response as soon as you are able to provide it after that date. I expect that the Committee will wish to invite you to attend a meeting of the Committee early in the autumn term to discuss your priorities in person.

There is an urgent need to take significant action on climate change and biodiversity loss. As Ministers at this time, you shoulder a great responsibility. You will be required to make difficult decisions that might sometimes be unpopular. I hope that, as a Committee, we can work constructively with you to ensure that the Welsh public can have confidence that such decisions have been scrutinised effectively and thoroughly in the Welsh Parliament.

I hope that this exercise will be the start of a productive dialogue between the Committee and you both. I look forward to working with you during this Senedd term.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

