



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

21 September 2021

Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear Minister


Members of the Stakeholder Task Group were gratified to receive your predecessor's positive response to our report on Environmental Governance in Wales post exit from the European Union. We understand that you remain committed to our recommendations and we welcome your recent statements in the Senedd in which you have reiterated your commitment to bringing forward legislation as soon as possible.

We were disappointed that this legislation was not included in the Welsh Government's legislative programme for the first year of this Senedd. While we welcome the appointment of the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor, we would stress that this appointment does not bridge the governance gap which arose on the UK's departure from the EU at the start of this year. It does not diminish therefore the urgency of legislating for the robust long-term arrangements now needed, as has been done or is near completion in all of the other UK countries.

We therefore ask that this work be prioritised, and allocated sufficient government resource now, to ensure that a bill can be laid early in the second year of the Senedd.

Members of the Task Group have asked me to stress their continuing support for the next, urgent phase of development of policy and legislation to establish an independent environmental governance oversight body; enshrine a high level objective and core environmental principles to fill gaps left by EU withdrawal; and create a framework for statutory nature recovery targets.

Yours sincerely

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Professor Robert Lee LLB LLD FAcSS FRSM

Former Chair, Environmental Governance Task Group