



David Rees AM
Chair
External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee
National Assembly for Wales

19 April 2018

Dear David

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance met with the "External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee" on 5th March, where he was asked a number of questions regarding the UK Agriculture Command Paper. This falls within the remit of my portfolio and so he has asked me to respond.

As I set out in my Written Statement 21st March, Brexit brings significant and swift changes. The combination of leaving the Common Agricultural Policy and new trading arrangements mean simply maintaining the status quo is untenable. I welcome this type of enquiry from the Committee and believe it is only right our policy and proposals are given full scrutiny by this Assembly.

The majority of farming support policy is currently prescribed in EU regulations. The Withdrawal Bill will import these into UK law and we are fighting to ensure the Assembly has the power to amend legislation in this area. Without changing primary legislation, we have very limited vires for changing the basis of payments either in transition, steady-state or for the enforcement, inspection and audit of spending.

My officials are currently in discussion with officials from the other UK administrations to agree what legislation and frameworks might be necessary and where other, more informal arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding might apply. I will make decisions on legislation once these discussions have progressed. However, it is likely new primary legislation will be required to change Welsh policy in this area.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

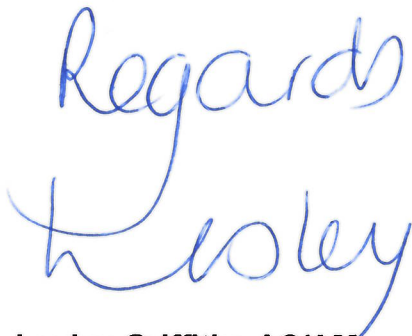
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The five principles set out in my Written Statement will become the basis for post-Brexit Welsh agriculture policy. They imply significant change and there must be a well-planned and multi-year transition.

There must also be appropriate consultation. I am now beginning a phase of intensive stakeholder engagement to work collaboratively on the details. Through my Roundtable, I will establish new working groups to consider how best to deliver the principles. These groups will support Welsh Government to bring forward initial proposal for reform by summer recess. Further detailed work will be necessary before specific legislative proposals can be brought forward.

I trust this information will be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any more queries.



Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

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