

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA LG 2505 20

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament

6 August 2020

Dear Mike

BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME AND RURAL SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FROM 2021 – Consultation 31 July 2020 to 23 October 2020

On 31st July, I published a consultation which sets out proposals to establish an interim regulatory framework to provide agricultural support from the end of the EU withdrawal agreement implementation period (31 December 2020) until new powers are introduced through the proposed Agriculture (Wales) Bill. These proposals would give effect to the powers we are proposing to take through schedule 5 of the UK Agriculture Bill.

Please find a link to the consultation document here: <https://gov.wales/sustainable-farming-and-our-land-simplifying-agricultural-support>

The consultation proposes a number of minor but impactful amendments to the retained (EU) regulatory framework governing the Basic Payment Scheme and Rural Development Programme in Wales. Responses will inform the scope for the Welsh legislation required to deliver those replacement domestic schemes after 2020, subject to UK Government confirming the available budgets.

Following EU Exit in January, I was planning to consult in late spring. However, timings slipped due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Legislation is required by 31 December 2020 to ensure all aspects of the schemes are in place, in particular, enforcement of environmental and animal health and welfare standards through Cross Compliance from 1 January 2021. I am mindful the proposals may generate significant interest so am proposing a full 12 week consultation, which requires the consultation to open now.

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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.

As outlined in the Legislative Consent Motion concerning the UK Agriculture Bill, powers are being taken for Welsh Ministers as a temporary measure to allow us to continue supporting farmers in Wales and to ensure agricultural sectors across the UK can operate effectively once we leave the EU and the consultation, which runs till 23 October 2020, is consistent with this.

I look forward to receiving the Committee's views on the proposals, which are an important element of the preparations for departing the EU and provide much needed continuity and stability for Welsh agriculture, during this period of unprecedented uncertainty and before a formal transition to the proposed future Sustainable Farming scheme.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

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