

Agenda – Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Lleoliad: I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 5 – Tŷ Hywel **Robert Donovan**
a fideogynadledda drwy Zoom Clerc y Pwyllgor
Dyddiad: Dydd Mercher, 30 Ebrill 2025 0300 200 6565
Amser: 09.30 SeneddEconomi@senedd.cymru

Hybrid

Rhag-gyfarfod preifat

09.15 – 09.30

Sesiwn gyhoeddus

09.30 – 11.00

1 Cyflwyniadau, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau

09.30

2 Iechyd Pridd mewn Amaethyddiaeth: Panel 1

09.30 – 11.00

(Tudalennau 1 – 58)

Yr Athro Bridget Emmett, Prif Wyddonydd, Canolfan Ecoleg a Hydroleg y DU
Dr William Stiles, Darlithydd ym maes Priddeg – Yr Adran Gwyddorau Bywyd,
Prifysgol Aberystwyth

Yr Athro Prysor Williams, Cadeirydd Amaethyddiaeth ac Amgylchedd, Yr
Ysgol Gwyddorau Amgylcheddol a Naturiol, Prifysgol Bangor

Dogfennau atodol:

Briff Ymchwil

Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig – Yr Athro Bridget Emmett (Saesneg yn unig)



Tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig – Prifysgol Aberystwyth (Saesneg yn unig)

Tystiolaeth ychwanegol – Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru (FUW) (Saesneg yn unig)

Tystiolaeth ychwanegol – Cymdeithas y Pridd Cymru (Saesneg yn unig)

3 Papurau i'w nodi

11.00

3.1 Deiseb P-06-1507 Rydym yn galw ar Brifysgol Cymru y Drindod Dewi Sant a Llywodraeth Cymru i greu cynllun hyfyw a chynaliadwy ar gyfer dyfodol hirdymor campws Llambod

(Tudalennau 59 – 63)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau – 24 Mawrth 2025

3.2 Rheoliadau Rheolaethau Swyddogol (Ymestyn Cyfnodau Trosiannol) (Diwygio) 2025

(Tudalennau 64 – 65)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig – 25 Mawrth 2025

3.3 Cyfarfod y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig

(Tudalennau 66 – 67)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad – 25 Mawrth 2025

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad – 31 Mawrth 2025

3.4 Deisebau mewn perthynas ag iechyd a lles anifeiliaid

(Tudalennau 68 – 70)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau – 27 Mawrth 2025

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau – 2 Ebrill 2025

3.5 Gwaith dilynol parthed cyfarfod y Pwyllgor a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Tachwedd 2024 – Yr Economi Sylfaenol

(Tudalennau 71 – 73)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol – 27 Mawrth 2025

3.6 Gwaith dilynol parthed cyfarfod y Pwyllgor a gynhaliwyd ar 5 Chwefror 2025 – y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy

(Tudalennau 74 – 75)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig – 31 Mawrth 2025

3.7 Teitlau Arglwydd y Faenor

(Tudalennau 76 – 77)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig – 2 Ebrill 2025

3.8 Rheoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori (Esemptiadau) (Proses a Gweithdrefn) (Diwygio) 2025

(Tudalennau 78 – 80)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig – 2 Ebrill 2025

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig – 24 Ebrill 2025

3.9 Ymchwiliad i Lwybrau Prentisiaethau

(Tudalennau 81 – 85)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Cadeirydd at y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch – 3 Ebrill 2025

Llythyr gan y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch – 24 Ebrill 2025

3.10 Cais am asesiad o effaith economaidd y cynlluniau i gau rhaglenni ym meysydd ieithoedd a diwylliant ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd

(Tudalennau 86 – 87)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Gadeirydd y Grŵp Seneddol Hollbleidiol ar Ieithoedd Modern – 3 Ebrill 2025 (Saesneg yn unig)

3.11 Cyfarfod y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar Dwristiaeth

(Tudalen 88)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad – 9 Ebrill 2025

3.12 Attachés bwyd–amaeth a diod y DU

(Tudalennau 89 – 90)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Cadeirydd at yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros yr Amgylchedd,
Bwyd a Materion Gwledig – 10 Ebrill 2025

3.13 Gwaith dilynol parthed cyfarfod y Pwyllgor a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Mawrth 2025 – Cludo nwyddau a logisteg, a rheoleiddio porthladdoedd

(Tudalennau 91 – 100)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru – 11
Ebrill 2025

Llythyr gan Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru – 22
Ebrill 2025

3.14 Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Sefydlog Rhyngweinidogol

(Tudalen 101)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth,
Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad – 22 Ebrill 2025

4 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog Rhif 17.42(ix) i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o weddill y cyfarfod

11.00

Sesiwn breifat

11.00 – 12.20

5 Trafod y dystiolaeth yn dilyn y cyfarfod

11.00 – 11.10

6 Deallusrwydd Artiffisial ac Economi Cymru: trafod yr adroddiad drafft

11.10 – 11.30

(Tudalennau 102 – 133)

Dogfennau atodol:

Adroddiad drafft (Saesneg yn unig)

7 Bargeinion Dinesig: Cwmpas a dull gweithredu

11.30 – 11.45

(Tudalennau 134 – 144)

Dogfennau atodol:

Papur cwmpasu (Saesneg yn unig)

8 Prosesu bwyd: Cwmpas a dull gweithredu

11.45 – 12.00

(Tudalennau 145 – 150)

Dogfennau atodol:

Papur cwmpasu (Saesneg yn unig)

9 Memorandwm Cydsyniad Deddfwriaethol Atodol: Y Bil Data (Defnydd a Mynediad): ystyried adroddiad drafft

12.00 – 12.10

(Tudalennau 151 – 174)

Dogfennau atodol:

Adroddiad drafft (Saesneg yn unig)

Nodyn cyngor cyfreithiol

10 Craffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2025–26: Tystiolaeth a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru

12.10 – 12.20

(Tudalennau 175 – 176)

Dogfennau atodol:

Llythyr gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid at Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau – 1
Ebrill 2025

Eitem 2

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Inquiry on Soil Health in Agriculture

Written evidence by Prof Bridget Emmett OBE, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology;
Scientific Lead of ERAMMP and member of the EU Mission Board for Soil.

11th April 2025

Headline messages regarding:

- **The role of soils in agricultural systems**

Soil is the main natural capital all agricultural systems rely on. It underpins all agricultural production and supports all land-based wildlife embedded in and around our agricultural systems. This includes (although is often missed) the bacteria, fungi and animals living in soils and which are thought to represent 60% of global biodiversity.

Soil is a precious resource which renews only very slowly (around 0.5cm every 100 years). All current soil in Wales has developed since the last glaciation around 11,000 years ago.

Soil (and peatlands) are the dominant land-based carbon store representing 94% of biosphere carbon in the UK and it has the potential to help us decarbonise the agriculture sector if we change current land use and management practices. However when we captured the full range of evidence from many studies this may be limited to a reduction of 5-10% of the net greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector (Emmett et al. 2023).

Soil carbon is the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 National Indicator No. 13. We believe Wales is one of the few countries globally to have soil as an indicator of national well-being.

Concern that soil health has slipped through the protection and regulatory net is already well established in Europe with one of the 5 EU Missions dedicated to improving soil health <https://mission-soil-platform.ec.europa.eu/>. This followed an analysis of all current soil monitoring data available which revealed 60-70% of EU soils were unhealthy. Issues of concern identified by the Mission and that are relevant for agricultural soils in Wales are; loss of organic matter and carbon, nutrient enrichment, compaction and erosion, levels of control chemicals and contaminants and loss of land/soil to urban development. With the exception of the last issue, all of these are related to current agricultural management practices.

- **Monitoring of soil health to assess state and change in soil health in agricultural soils**

A monitoring programme in Wales (ERAMMP) has just recently (April 2025) published the status and trends of soil health in Wales for the last 10 years linking to legacy monitoring programmes started in the 1970s (<https://erammp.wales/en/nationaltrends>). The report also evaluates the impact of the Glastir agri-environment scheme on soil health and the extent and benefits of restoration of agricultural land on peatland on greenhouse gas emissions. This provides a timely and statistically robust insight into current trends in soil health in agriculture which we hope will be of interest to the Committee.

Key ERAMMP findings relating to soil health in agriculture over the last 10 years include:

1. 8% decrease in topsoil carbon concentration in Arable soils
2. 6% in Arable increase in soil bulk density (which is indicative of increased compaction), a 10% increase in Improved Grassland and 12% increase in Semi-Improved Grassland. Overall there was a 8% increase across Wales.
3. a) 15% increase in topsoil phosphorus level in Improved Grassland with a 3 fold increase in number of sites exceeding leaching threshold (19% now exceed recommended levels which risk leaching to rivers)
b) 18% increase in topsoil phosphorus in Arable and 2 fold increase in number of sites exceeding recommended levels (11% of sites now exceed recommended levels.)
c) 10% reduction in nitrogen levels in Arable soils but remaining within recommended guidance levels for production
4. 72% of Improved Grassland sites fall below the minimum soil acidity levels when productivity may be reduced. This statistic has not changed over the last 10 years
5. 5% loss (-49,000ha) of Arable and Improved Grassland land between 2010 and 2021 primarily to increased Urban (+28,200ha) and Woodland (+23,600 ha)
6. The agri-environment scheme Glastir has had minimal benefit effect on soil health in agriculture over the last 10 years.
7. 3% (526ha) of agricultural peatland has been restored (rewetted, scrub removal etc)
8. A new baseline assessment suggests 4% of Wales experiences some form of soil erosion and disturbance
9. Baseline data is also available for soil biodiversity. Dried and frozen soil samples have been archived for future needs such as assessing soil biodiversity change and levels of contaminants and control chemicals.

Overall, these results suggest one of concern for soil health in agriculture as all of these indicators (except 3c) indicate a decline in soil health. Below these findings are put into

context and described in greater detail. I look forward to discussing this evidence and their implication with the Committee on the 30th April 2025.

Personal experience

I have over 35 years as an environment research scientist as a Soil and Ecosystem Science specialist. I am providing this evidence as the independent Scientific Lead for a major Welsh Government funded programme of work called ERAMMP (<https://erammp.wales/en>; <https://erammp.wales/cy>) which brings together over 20 organisations to deliver evidence, modelling and review to support policy development and evaluation which underpins Sustainable Land Management of the Welsh landscape. Welsh Government has supported the work since 2012 which is led by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. As I am also one of the 15 members of the EU Mission Board for Soil, I can provide some insight as to the direction of travel on this topic in Europe.

Monitoring Soil Health in Wales: Evidence from ERAMMP

On the 4th April 2025 ERAMMP published an independent evaluation of the current national trends of Wales' natural resources and the outcomes of the Glastir agri-environment scheme (AES) (<https://erammp.wales/en/nationaltrends>; <https://erammp.wales/cy/tueddiadaucenedlaethol>). Wales is unique amongst the four UK Nations in having and maintaining a long-term, integrated national monitoring programme across its rural environment. The quality and breadth of the evidence base presented in the report is unmatched. The design of the programme enables us to compare the results from the last 10 years with those from the historic UKCEH Countryside Survey stretching back to the 1970's. In addition, the same design and methodologies used for national trend reporting have been used for Glastir evaluation enabling the contribution of Glastir to be assessed both for land where management options were applied but also how they aggregate up to contribute to the national trends reported.

As part of this evidence we have specific data relating to the status of, and change in, topsoil health in agricultural systems which is outlined below (Emmett et al. 2025). Note that results cover the top 0-15cm of the soil as this is the part of the soil most actively managed and most exposed to climate change. Going forward it is hoped the resources will be made available by Welsh Government to extend soil monitoring to deeper soil.

Headline messages with context

1. 8% decrease in topsoil carbon concentration in Arable soils

Context: Carbon in soil is considered one of the most most helpful indicators of overall soil health as it is linked to soil moisture retention, effective nutrient cycling and overall good soil structure which benefits root growth. It also contributes to carbon sequestration and thus helps meet the Net Zero target. Soil carbon loss is usually attributed to intensive management practices such as tillage and a lack of organic matter inputs. The decrease in Wales reported by ERAMMP compares to an increase in Arable soils across Great Britain (driven primarily by trends in England) reported by UKCEH's Countryside Survey which reversed a longstanding trend of decline of 11% since 1978 (Bentley et al. In review). The reason for the different signals in England and Wales is being explored but could include a lower rotational diversity in Wales (Upcott et al, 2023 which uses UKCEH's annual crop map) and / or lower uptake of actions often described as regenerative agriculture which we believe may now be reversing the longstanding decline of soil carbon in arable soils in England.

2. 6% increase in soil bulk density in Arable soils (which is indicative of increased compaction), 10% increase in Improved Grassland and 12% increase in Semi-Improved Grassland. Overall there was a 8% increase across Wales.

Context: An increase in bulk density / compaction is of concern as it is linked to a more dense soil structure (more soil per volume of soil) which leads to less favourable root growth and poor infiltration and rapid runoff of rainfall into rivers. The increase varies across habitats and currently the levels remain below recommended thresholds and in-depth analysis is needed to understand the drivers of change. However, the ERAMMP results provide an early warning of a possible lack of adaptation of management practices in response to wetter winters and drier summers associated with climate change.

3. a) 15% increase in topsoil phosphorus level in Improved Grassland with a 3 fold increase in number of sites exceeding leaching threshold (19% now exceed recommended levels which risk leaching to rivers).
b) 18% increase in topsoil phosphorus in Arable and 2 fold increase for Arable (11% now exceed recommended levels.)
c) Topsoil nitrogen concentrations have reduced but remain with productivity guidelines in Arable soils (**note is a positive outcome**)

Context:

3a&b Phosphorus fertiliser is used to maintain production in both Improved Grassland and Arable systems. The general increase in soil P levels reported by ERAMMP is at first

difficult to reconcile with the reported reduction in the use of manufactured fertiliser between 2010 and 2023 of 55% in England and Wales (British Survey of Fertiliser Practice 2023 (BSFP 2023)). However, manure use trends between 2014 to 2023 suggests a 14% increase in dressing cover of organic manures for the whole of Great Britain (data for England and Wales from 2010 and separate to GB are not available) (BSFP 2023). Therefore the mismatch between the BSFP survey and the ERAMMP results may be related to the use of sustained, and possible increased, use of organic manures, in particular the use of poultry manures as poultry litter and manure is very phosphorus rich compared to other animal slurries and farmyard manures.

The ERAMMP results of increased number of sites exceeding soil P recommended thresholds also highlights the issue of local use versus national averages. It is the use of high levels by just some farmers near to sensitive river systems which can result in nutrient enrichment (called eutrophication) of soils, freshwaters and coastal systems recently highlighted in the media. As we develop future indicators for Sustainable Land Management we need to consider indicators which can identify extremes which can cause local issues such as river pollution as well as national averages.

(Note: It is worth noting the design of the British Survey of Fertiliser Practices is targeted towards reporting change in use of manufactured fertiliser not manures and therefore the data for use of organic manures is not as robust but it is the only data available.)

Context 3c: A decline in soil nitrogen levels reduces the risk of nitrogen entering rivers and other water bodies and the risk of emissions of nitrous oxide from the soil (a potent greenhouse gas). It also reduces the potential transfer of nitrogen from field to field margins which are important refugia for wildlife and are damaged by raised nutrient levels. It is possible this is an early signal of an environmental benefit of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 which came into force April 2921. No change was reported for improved Grassland.

4. 72% of Improved Grassland sites fall below the minimum soil acidity levels when productivity may be reduced.

Context: The majority of Improved Grassland sites have soil acidity levels which fall below the recommended threshold. This number has not improved over the last 10 years. Below the threshold, lower fertiliser use efficiency particularly of phosphorus can occur. This low acidity is most likely due to the use of manufactured fertiliser (particularly ammonia-based fertiliser) without the use of lime to offset its acidifying effect. Low pH also increases the risk of nitrous oxide emissions from soil – a powerful greenhouse gas.

5. 5% loss (-49,000ha) of Arable and Improved Grassland land between 2010 and 2021 primarily to increased Urban (+28,200ha) and Woodland (+23,600 ha)

Context: These results are obtained from the use of satellite data by UKCEH for ERAMMP. It demonstrates the multiple demands on our land resource as building new houses and new woodland are priorities as is a resilient and sustainable food system. Currently these results suggest these priorities are directly competing for the same land.

Impact of Glastir

6. The agri-environment scheme Glastir has had minimal benefit for agriculture soils over the last 10 years.

One of the six environmental objectives of the Glastir agri-environment scheme which ran from 2012 to 2023 was “Improving soil quality and management”. The ERAMMP National Field Survey found minimal evidence soil quality had been improved on land in the Glastir scheme which had taken up management options intended to improve environmental outcomes. However 11% farmers in scheme self-reported they were more likely to have carried out soil nutrient testing and 10% had undertaken more manure actions. Management options taken up appear not to have been sufficiently widespread or transformative in nature to protect or restore soil health in agriculture.

Peatland restoration in agriculture

7. Limited peatland restoration on agriculture land representing (526ha / 3% of agriculture land on peat).

Peat soils represent 4% of Wales but contribute 10% of the combined Agriculture and Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry GHG inventories due to their water logged nature. Their restoration is often suggested as a priority to help meet Net Zero by 2050.

Agriculture (arable, intensive and extensive grassland) represents 19% of this peatland (0.8% of all agricultural land in Wales) but is responsible for 54% of GHG emissions from all peatlands.

Whilst an estimated 5,000ha of peatland restoration has been carried out (most since 2010), only 526ha has been carried out on agricultural land representing 3% of land area and 3% reduction in GHG emissions from agriculture on peatland. Most peatland restoration 5,000ha has been on bogs.

New baseline for future broader assessments of soil health

8. Soil erosion and disturbance features

The ERAMMP report provides a first estimate of the area of Wales where there is soil erosion and disturbance present. This is estimated as 4% of Wales using a combined approach of aerial photography and the ERAMMP National Field

Survey. Linking this data to erosion modelling indicated the majority of this eroding soil contributes to soil in rivers but is re-distributed within the fields and landscape.

9. Soil Biodiversity

Welsh Government paid for one of the most comprehensive national assessments to date of soil biodiversity ever undertaken using eDNA. The data provides a fascinating insight into the current distribution of bacteria, fungi and animals in soil across the different habitats of Wales and describe the inherent properties of soils and climate which drives the observed distributions. This provides a robust baseline for future assessments using soil samples frozen from ERAMMP or future surveys should this be prioritised by Welsh Government. (Emmett et al. 2017; George et al. 2019). This builds on Countryside Survey soil biodiversity assessments (Griffiths et al. 2011)

10. Contaminants

Baseline assessments for metal concentrations have been made with dried samples archived should change data be requested (Emmett et al. 2010). Frozen samples are also available for assessment of Persistent Organic Pollutants should this be requested (GMEP and ERAMMP samples).

Sources:

Bentley et al. (2025) Soil. In Emmett, B.A., et al. (2025). ERAMMP Technical Annex-105TA1: Wales National Trends and Glastir Evaluation. Report to Welsh Government (C208/2021/2022) (UKCEH 08435)

https://erammp.wales/sites/default/files/2025-04/ERAMMP%20Technical%20Annex-105%20Wales%20National%20Trends%20and%20Glastir%20Evaluation_0.pdf

Emmett, B., Evans, C., Matthews, R., Smith, P., Thompson, A. (2023). Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme (ERAMMP). ERAMMP Report-101: The opportunities and limitations of carbon capture in soil and peatlands. Report to Welsh Government (Contract C208/2021/2022)(UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Project 08435) https://erammp.wales/sites/default/files/2025-01/101%20Report101_ERAMMPShortReport_Carboninsoil_EN_v1.2%20%281%29.pdf

Emmett, B.A. & the ERAMMP team (2025). ERAMMP Report-105: Wales National Trends and Glastir Evaluation. Report to Welsh Government (C208/2021/2022) (UKCEH 08435)

<https://erammp.wales/sites/default/files/2025-03/Report%20105.%20Wales%20National%20Trends%20and%20Glastir%20Evaluation.pdf>

Emmett, B.A., Reynolds, B., Chamberlain, P.M., Rowe, E., Spurgeon, D., Brittain, S.A., Frogbrook, Z., Hughes, S., Lawlor, A.J., Poskitt, J., Potter, E., Robinson, D.A., Scott, A., Wood, C., Woods, C. (2010). Countryside Survey: Soils Report from 2007. Technical Report No. 9/07 NERC/Centre for Ecology & Hydrology 192pp. (CEH Project Number: C03259). <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/cs-soils>

Emmett, B. A., & the GMEP team (2017). Glastir Monitoring & Evaluation Programme. Final Report to Welsh Government. <https://gmep.wales/sites/default/files/GMEP-Final-Report-2017.pdf>

George, P. B., Lallias, D., Creer, S., Seaton, F., Kenny, J. G., Eccles, R. M., . . . Jones, D. L. (2019). *Divergent national-scale trends of microbial and animal biodiversity revealed across diverse temperate soil ecosystems. Nature Communications 10.*

Griffiths et al. (2011) *The bacterial biogeography of British Soils. Environ. Micro. 13: 1642-1654.*

Upcott et al (2023) *A new approach to characterising and predicting crop rotations using national-scale annual crop maps. Science of the total Environment 860: 160471*

Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee meeting: Soil Health in Agriculture

Dr William Stiles and Dr John Scullion

This report offers a brief overview of the areas of interest specified. Where appropriate summary bullet points are provided at the end of a section.

The role and state of soils in agricultural systems

Soils offer a range of ecosystem services (e.g. carbon storage, water regulation) and are the foundation of food production. Soils are complex ecosystems being governed by a dynamic interplay between biological, chemical, and physical properties. These properties interact to give a soil its characteristics. Soils are subject to change, particularly in relation to biological and chemical characteristics. Across Wales there is a significant variability in agricultural soils with differing suitability for agri-systems. Quantifying the 'state' of a soil requires a clear target condition and related assessment factors.

Production:

Soil is fundamental to agricultural production. Soil offers a rooting medium and supplies of water and nutrients for growing plants. Parikh and James (2012) note that soils best suited for agricultural production possess a balanced soil texture (without extreme proportions of sand, silt, and clay), SOM, and air/water filled pore space. This allows for adequate water retention and drainage, root aeration, and nutrient availability. As such, factors that control soil texture will to a degree determine the potential of a soil to support agricultural and different crop productivities (Silver *et al.*, 2021).

Inappropriate management can degrade a soil significantly and rapidly. For instance, the loss of organic matter or excessive trafficking would drive physical degradation. Growth of plants in soils where SOM has dropped to below 2% will be suppressed even when fertilisers are applied (Johnson *et al.*, 2009). Reduced liming applications may constrain productivity in the medium term. Crops such as fodder maize, when grown without the use of understorey or cover crops, have the potential to lead to significant erosion of bare soils in winter (Jaafar & Walling, 2010), leading to the loss of the nutrient rich surface soil layer.

- Failure to maintain optimum pH a medium term risk
- Precision techniques have potential to better match inputs to demand

Organic matter and carbon:

Soil organic matter (SOM) includes material of biological origin, both as living and dead material. This can be taken as a proxy for soil health as it directly relates to several key soil functions, including fertility. To some extent the amount of more labile SOM in soil will vary seasonally (Leinweber *et al.*, 1994) due to factors altering the balance of addition/decomposition (management, climate, topography, and others) (UKSO, 2025). But in

the medium term stocks are in equilibrium unless external factors change. The level of SOM, and soil organic carbon (SOC), is relatively high in Welsh soils (EEA, 2024). This is mainly due to the large stock of organo-mineral and peat soil in Welsh upland systems, and to the large proportion of grassland-livestock systems across Wales (Mahmood *et al.*, 2024). It should be emphasised that these findings relate to C stocks not dynamics and the relatively high C contents are vulnerable to decline due to climatic and management changes.

Grasslands are typically subject to less disturbance than arable or other high-intensity management system soils and have higher SOM consequently. For instance, according to the Countryside Survey, there has been no change to SOC in grassland systems since 1978, whereas soils in arable and horticulture systems have lost 11% of SOC over this period (Emmett *et al.*, 2010). Climate change and agricultural economics are likely to promote a switch to cropping of grassland soils.

However, the levels of organic matter will still vary within Welsh grassland systems subject to the intensity of management. High levels of disturbance (ploughing and reseeded), high stocking densities, and high rates of nitrogen/nutrient input will have a broadly negative effect. Additionally, management which favours monocultural grassland will have lower overall soil carbon (Cong *et al.*, 2014; Yang *et al.*, 2019). This may represent a loss of opportunity where SOC could be higher under alternative management with a focus on increased biodiversity.

- Need to distinguish stocks from fluxes
- Potential land use changes may lead to a loss of soil C
- Limited potential for C sequestration in most Welsh soils

Water regulation:

Soil has an important role in hydrological cycles capturing, storing and gradually releasing incident rainfall into rivers or groundwater. During passage through soils microbial activity and physical filtering ameliorate influents such as applied animal slurries. Macropore space dominates the movement of water through soils where these pores are interconnected as is the case with earthworm burrows and former root channels. However, these pore systems are however heterogenous and vulnerable to loss by compaction or declines in earthworm numbers. Where surface infiltration is limited surface runoff predominates during heavy rain increasing local surface flooding risk.

Much of upland Wales has been subject to pasture improvement, where acid grasslands have been limed, cultivated and reseeded to more productive species. Cultivation of these soils destroys surface organic layers and their high rainfall acceptance. However, the resulting circumneutral pH allows colonisation by earthworms whose burrows promote infiltration. There has however been a decline in lime applications in the UK over recent decades (Goulding, 2016), particularly in less accessible upland soils. As a result, these soils have become more acidic, earthworm abundance has declined and water infiltration has decreased (Scullion *et al.*, 2023). The implications of this for reduced water storage for catchment scale hydrology will depend on factors such as topography and proportions of affected pastures on steeper slopes.

Productive grassland swards in Wales are often dominated by perennial ryegrasses due to their high productive potential. However, many of these grasses have profuse surface rooting traits which militate against ingress of excess rainfall. Surface infiltration rates under pure ryegrass swards have been found to be up to 5 times lower compared with those under clovers (Marley *et al.*, 2024). Ryegrass/clover mixtures have rates close to the mean of individual components. Over reliance on ryegrasses and reduced rainfall capture presents an enhanced local risk factor.

In addition to the flooding risks associated with increased surface runoff, bypassing the soil reduces plant uptake of nutrients and the extent to which added influent is ameliorated by soil processes. This has particular relevance to issues surrounding slurry applications.

- Agriculture management practices affect water infiltration and flood risk
- Reduced infiltration can limit nutrient uptake and exacerbate pollution risk

Monitoring of soil health

The objectives of a monitoring system need to be clear and can vary from soil protection to providing evidence of medium term trends in conditions. Historically, the focus has been on the suitability of soil for crop production, whereas, more recently, the focus has shifted towards multi-functionality assessment, considering the provision of ecosystem services and the resistance/resilience of the soil ecosystem to perturbation (Hanley *et al.*, 2018; Toor *et al.*, 2021).

A range of tools exist for monitoring variability in the health of soil. Whilst soil properties are dynamic and heterogenous, certain predictions can be made based on factors including land-use type, soil type/texture, and climate. The tools available range from scorecard-style systems (e.g. AHDB, 2025) to online calculator tools (e.g. UKCEH, 2025).

The scorecard approach from AHDB (2025) offers a system to interpret soil health for farmers and land managers that considers values for SOM, pH, fertility (phosphorus, potassium, magnesium), structure, and earthworms against expected ranges for given UK soil types. These present a colour-coded 'traffic light' hierarchy to represent quality and where action is required. This approach is focussed on optimum conditions for crop production, which is not necessarily the same as optimal soil health, and requires sampling and analysis of a range of soil variables to be undertaken.

The SOD (SOil funDamentals) is a tool from CEH based on Countryside survey data. This uses the robust dataset to offer insight on the quality of soil across a range of indicators, including SOM, pH, bulk density, and earthworm abundance (UKCEH, 2025). However, this tool still requires a reasonable understanding of the environment in question (i.e. soil textural type, annual rainfall rate), and measurements to be taken of the main characteristics in order to be applicable, which may lead to challenges. Nevertheless, where the required input data is known, the SOD tool can help contextualise the quality of a soil relative to expectations. The factors considered by this tool to determine soil health are by virtue interrelated. For instance,

SOM can act as a buffer against soil pH change and soils with high organic matter would be expected to have greater porosity and general physical structure.

The above approaches require input derived from on-site analysis of the soil under consideration. The future of large-scale soil health assessments must utilise remote sensing technologies, offering a rapid approach to health status quantification (Aqdam *et al.*, 2023). This is an active area for research but to date no one consistently accurate approach has emerged. Studies vary from single issue assessments as a proxy for health (i.e. soil carbon), (Endsley *et al.*, 2020), to multi-factor assessments of remote sensed information (Wang *et al.*, 2023) and are expected to improve rapidly with the application of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

- Various systems exist for assessing soil quality suitable at farm and broader scales
- Developments in remote sensing offer the prospect of landscape scale assessments

Classification of soils for land use

The soils of Wales have been mapped as part of the Soil Survey of England and Wales. These maps have been digitised as part of the Land Information System (LandIS) project and are available through the Soilscales Viewer (LandIS, 2025). According to Cranfield University (2025) there are 298 distinct soil types (or soil associations). These broad classifications can be simplified by aggregating broadly similar groups together, which results in 27 distinct soil units (Haygarth & Ritz, 2009), but this still represents a significant diversity of soils across the Welsh landscape.

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is a system of categorisation which can show the suitability of a given soil to produce food (MAFF 1988). Whilst this system considers more than simply soil, it offers a broad framework for considering the potential of a landscape in the context of agricultural productivity. However, current factors which would be considered essential, such as the delivery of ecosystem services from soils, would not be adequately considered by this approach and classifications tend to be static.

Understanding the different soil types present in a given location can indicate likely vegetation landcover, and *vice versa* (through plant-soil interactions), at least for 'natural' or unmodified landscapes. The existing spatially-explicit soil data could allow the quantification of land use capability subject to underlying soil type, where the requirements of land use and the limitations of a soil type are adequately quantified. However land use change can modify soil through alterations to SOM, soil biodiversity, and pH. Quantifying the influence of land use on soil types is necessary to understand the influence on soil health and ecosystem service provision for each soil type under differing management.

- Ongoing developments in classification promise digital, high resolution mapping with the option of varying factors and outcomes

The policy and legislative mechanisms to protect soils and productive land (including the Sustainable Farming Scheme, National Minimum Standards and planning policy (amongst others))

Soil protection in the Wales is governed through devolved and UK-wide policies. Wales has developed distinct mechanisms compared to the wider UK, tailored to its unique environmental and agricultural context.

The Sustainable Farming Scheme:

The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) in Wales is central to future agricultural land and soil protection. The scheme encourages farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices that enhance soil health, reduce erosion, and increase carbon sequestration. The SFS is framed within the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023, which mandates support for sustainable land management (Welsh Government, 2023a).

National Minimum Standards:

Alongside the SFS, National Minimum Standards (NMS) for environmental protection are intended to ensure all land managers meet baseline regulatory requirements. These standards need to be enforceable and include requirements relating to soil health, such as minimising compaction, maintaining ground cover, and preventing pollution from run-off. The NMS are intended to replace the cross-compliance mechanisms.

Planning policy and land use:

Land use planning plays a key role in protecting productive land from harmful development. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) emphasises the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (grades 1, 2, and 3a) from development unless there is an overriding need. The policy mandates local planning authorities to consider soil quality and sustainable land use in development decisions (Welsh Government, 2021).

The above initiatives in Wales are delivered in line with national legislation: the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The legislative landscape surrounding the protection of soils remains complex and transitional. Continued coordination between government, enforcement of minimum standards, and robust data collection are essential to improving long-term soil health and protection of productive land.

The potential for legal frameworks and targets for soils.

Soils in the UK and Wales lack dedicated legal protection. Soil degradation continues due to compaction, erosion, organic matter loss, and sealing through development (Graves *et al.*, 2015). Existing legal instruments, such as the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, acknowledge soil as a natural resource but do not set enforceable standards or monitoring obligations.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provide foundational legal tools that could support the development of soil health objectives. These Acts obligate public bodies to pursue long-term environmental sustainability and sustainable natural resource management. Soils could be more explicitly incorporated into the

Natural Resources Policy and the associated Area Statements under the oversight of Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 and the upcoming SFS present promising opportunities for embedding soil health principles into law through conditional support payments, baseline standards, and incentivised practices. While not legally binding in a regulatory sense, these frameworks have the potential to set *de facto* standards for soil management, especially if linked to measurable indicators.

Scientific consensus supports using indicators such as SOM, erosion rates, and compaction measures to assess the health and quality of soil (Kibblewhite *et al.*, 2008; Hanley *et al.*, 2018; Toor *et al.*, 2021). Incorporating this into statutory targets, alongside monitoring obligations, would align Wales with best practices in natural capital accounting and environmental governance.

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Farmers' Union of Wales response to a Senedd Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry on soil health in agriculture

11th April 2025

About the FUW

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) was established in 1955 to exclusively represent the interests of farmers in Wales. Since 1978 the union has been formally recognised by UK Governments, and subsequently by Welsh Governments, as independently representing those interests.

The FUW's Vision is *thriving, sustainable, family farms in Wales*, while the Mission of the Union is *To advance and protect Wales' family farms, both nationally and individually*, in order to fulfil the Union's vision.

In addition to its Head Office, which has thirty full-time members of staff, the FUW Group has around 80 members of staff based in twelve regional offices around Wales providing a broad range of services for members.

The FUW is a democratic organisation, with policies being formulated following consultation with its twelve County Executive Committees and eleven Standing Committees.

General comments

The majority of the themes covered by this inquiry are addressed by the FUW's response to a Welsh Government consultation on its Draft Soil Policy Statement in 2022 (Appendix 1). Therefore, in addition to the further comments below, we would refer members of the Committee to Appendix 1 as well as the Soil Carbon and Baseline recommendations of the Sustainable Farming Scheme Carbon Sequestration Panel summary.¹ The full report is expected to be published on the Welsh Government website ahead of the committee's oral evidence sessions.

The role and state of soils in agricultural systems

Farmers in Wales manage a range of different soil types, even within their own farming systems. Soils themselves are influenced to varying degrees by previous and current management practices, underlying geology, soil structure, microbiota, weather, and increasingly, climate change. Furthermore, different soils can react differently to management practices, making

¹ [Sustainable Farming Scheme: Carbon Sequestration Evidence Review Panel: summary report | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-carbon-sequestration-evidence-review-panel-summary-report)

standardised policies, measuring and management techniques difficult (for example, the impact of tree planting on organo-mineral soils and sandy soils' soil carbon content).

Figure 1: An overview of Wales by a) land cover [1], b) agricultural land classification land quality (Predictive ALC Version 2) [2], c) elevation [1] and d) major soil groups [3].

MMH is 'mountain, moorland and heath'; BMV stands for 'Best and Most Versatile' land; SW is 'surface water' and GW is 'ground water'.



Figure 1 (taken from the Welsh Government's review of evidence on Welsh soils).²

There is an estimated 410 Megatonnes of carbon stored in Welsh soils³. Whilst farmers in Wales manage soils ranging from arable land to peatland, the vast majority of farmland use is permanent pasture or upland rough grazing. This often-undervalued habitat acts as a huge soil organic carbon store in Wales (SOC)⁴, subject to very little disturbance in comparison to land used for arable, horticulture, forestry or development purposes. Yet, current private carbon sales only value 'new and additional' sequestration^{5,6}, and payments are often higher for creating new

² [Welsh Soil Evidence Review](#)

³ Russell, S., Blackstock, T., Christie, M., Clarke, M., Davies, K., Duigan, C., Durance, I., Elliot, R., Evans, H., Falzon, C., Frost, R., Ginley, S., Hockley, N., Hourahane, S., Jones, B., Jones, L., Korn, J., Ogden, P., Pagella, S., Pagella, T., Pawson, B., Reynolds, B., Robinson, D., Sanderson, B., Sherry, J., Skates, J., Small, E., Spence, B. and Thomas, C. (2011). Chapter 20: Status and Changes in the UK's Ecosystems and their Services to Society: Wales. UK National Ecosystem Assessment: Technical Report. [Assessment of Welsh Soil Issues in Context](#)

⁴ [Welsh Soil Evidence Review](#)

⁵ [Regenerate Outcomes](#)

⁶ [Getting paid for carbon](#)

habitat through Government schemes, as opposed to valuing existing carbon stocks, their protection and enhancement. This means farming practices which have protected and maintained their soil carbon stores (and habitat value) are often at a disadvantage for obtaining further funding.

This lack of disturbance and sustainable management through livestock is reflected in recent research compiled by the Welsh Government's Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP), which demonstrated no changes in national topsoil carbon⁷, in contrast to England. However there was a loss within Arable soils (-7.7%). Arable farmland in England is now seeking the re-integration of livestock to restore their soil organic matter levels⁸.

The importance of soil health (particularly soil organic matter- SOM) for providing multiple benefits cannot be understated. It impacts our ability to produce food, recycle nutrients, filtrate water, store carbon, and support biodiversity. However, there is a shift underway within agricultural practices, as the science and understanding around the biological element of soils is developing, alongside how management techniques can directly and indirectly influence these factors. Historic policies and agricultural businesses have focused on dramatically increasing production via chemical means (artificial fertilisers). However, both the scientific and practical implications of the role of mycorrhizal fungi, SOM, root exudates, the sustainable use of inputs and the impact of grazing management and rest on soil health, soil carbon and achieving optimum productivity is now increasingly understood.

The high costs and market volatility of manufactured fertilisers, the direction of agricultural support policies, and an uplift in farmer to farmer knowledge exchange^{9,10,11}, alongside biological soil consultants is enabling this shift.

This means the adoption of both new and old management techniques such as no or minimum tillage, ensuring diversity of species and deep rooting plants, mob/cell/holistic planned grazing, consideration of anthelmintic use, and outwintering or bale grazing.

The vast majority of Welsh farmland inadvertently follow the five rules of 'regenerative agriculture'¹² - don't disturb the soil, keep the soil surface covered, keep living roots in the soil (depending on the grazing implemented), grow a diverse range of crops (unimproved or semi-natural grasslands have the highest diversity, unless abandoned¹³) and integrate livestock. However, the supply chain and Government-led schemes still lack recognition and reward for ensuring the long term viability and good health of soils. Soil health is a long term investment, however, short tenures, annual Government funding cycles and pressure on tight profit margins makes this long term vision, and implementation, challenging to balance against annual

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<https://erammp.wales/sites/default/files/2025-03/Report%20105.%20Wales%20National%20Trends%20and%20Glastir%20Evaluation.pdf>

⁸ https://www.soilassociation.org/media/25271/sa_ex-livestock_3_web.pdf

⁹ [Pasture for Life](#)

¹⁰ [Regenerative agriculture training, webinars and course in the UK — Regenerate Outcomes](#)

¹¹ [Da Byw](#)

¹² [Principles of Regenerative Agriculture - Groundswell](#)

¹³ [Species-rich grasslands management - Farming for Nature](#)

profitability, in addition to understanding the complexities of soil carbon.

Monitoring of soil health

There is a huge array of soil modelling, research and papers written on Welsh soils via the ERAMMP and Soil Policy Evidence Programme.^{14,15,16}

Yet, the vast majority of this data and detail is not communicated back to the farmers managing these soils, representing a missed opportunity for engagement, knowledge sharing and monitoring. However, accurate and cost-effective monitoring of soil carbon through comparable and repeatable measurements is challenging at the farm-level.

The engagement potential is illustrated well in Northern Ireland's Soil nutrient Health Scheme. The largest baseline soil sampling programme ever undertaken has had a 92% farmer uptake, in part due to the delivery of farm-level, and field-level soil data on fertility and carbon stocks, with accompanying LIDAR run-off risk maps and above-ground biomass maps.¹⁷

The Carbon Panel recommended that Welsh Government makes improvements to its soils monitoring programme to ensure it meets United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) compliant standards to assess soil carbon to a minimum of 30cm, (as opposed to 15cm) recognising that good practice involves sampling to 1m or the bedrock.

Farming Connect currently have an ongoing Welsh Soil project, seeking to understand the carbon content of soils under different management intensity across Wales¹⁸, using a selection of the demonstration network farms. However, comparing averages can be challenging as was reflected in a First Milk and University of Leeds study. The study showed carbon stocks in permanent pastures varying from 35-350 tonnes of Carbon per hectare¹⁹.

Soil sampling has been supported via various Government-led schemes, including Farming Connect. Farmers also pay for their own soil sampling to ensure lime, slurry and fertiliser applications are optimal, or to identify mineral deficiencies which may impact on livestock health. However, the results collected through Government-funded schemes are not noted against fields or farms²⁰ (such as on RPW Online) due to data sharing technicalities, but rather compiled according to geographical area. They have historically included nutrient indices tests only (P, K & Mg, and also pH), but are now being expanded to incorporate biological factors such as soil organic matter and structure.

The soil testing of field parcels that receive inputs is proposed as a Universal Action within the upcoming Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS).

¹⁴ [Soil & Peat | ERAMMP](#)

¹⁵ [Soil function maps resource review](#)

¹⁶ [Soils | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

¹⁷ [Soil Nutrient Health Scheme | Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute](#)

¹⁸ [Farming Connect Demonstration Network - Welsh Soil Project](#)

¹⁹ [On farm carbon capture - Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#)

²⁰ [Summary of Farming Connect Soil Results 2023/2024](#)

New markets and companies are taking advantage of this appetite from farmers to understand their soils, particularly carbon levels and the ability to increase (or decrease) their levels, via sales from soil carbon credits. Examples include Agreeena, Soil Capital, Trinity AgTech and Regenerate Outcomes - but many will take a significant cut of any credits generated, both in order to pay for the soil carbon baselining and monitoring, in addition to profit.

Applications (paid for) are also available to guide farmers through soil sampling and monitoring, such as Soil mentor²¹, which allow you to plot results, observations and photos against GPS field locations, and to benchmark them against other farms. However, at current prices, they are not widespread or widely used.

Soil structure can also be assessed by farmers via the 'Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure'²² steps, simply using a spade out in the field. Worm count tests can also be done in the field, which give a good indication of organic matter²³.

Classification of soils for land use

(Please see the Soils Policy Statement response)

The FUW endorses the need to protect agricultural soils classified as the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) for sustainable food production, given the challenge of conflicting profitability of different land uses, long term food security, and the increase in population predicted over the next decades, amid increasingly unstable geo-political trade.

However, other grades of land should not be disregarded or left unprotected for food production. Climate change is adding increasing stress to soil health on all types of land, particularly arable land which is generally classified as BMV. This is due to challenging growing conditions and extreme weather, which causes increased compaction or the loss of microbial activity due to drought, or increased levels of pests and pathogens from warmer, wetter weather. This will increase the need for other grades of land to 'fill the gap', whilst delivering on various other land use demands such as biodiversity, energy generation, carbon sequestration and development.

It should also be recognised that using land classifications can often be a blunt tool for determining the appropriateness of certain land areas for other uses such as tree planting or development. The FUW has previously questioned the Welsh Government's intentions to plant 'less productive areas' of Wales with trees given that the areas of Wales categorised as Less Favoured Areas (LFA) and Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA) are 79% and 56% respectively, and therefore for many farming business the entire farming system will consist of land classified as Grade 3 or lower. When determining the appropriateness of different land

²¹ [Soilmentor](#)

²² <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/how-to-assess-soil-structure>

²³ <https://soils.vidacycle.com/soil-tests/1-1-earthworms/>

areas for other agricultural or non-agricultural purposes, the FUW maintains that socio-economic and wider environmental factors must also be considered on an equal basis.

The policy and legislative mechanisms to protect soils and productive land (including the Sustainable Farming Scheme, National Minimum Standards and planning policy (amongst others))

The potential for legal frameworks and targets for soils

(Please see the Soils Policy Statement response for an outline of existing policy and legislative mechanisms farmers work within)

A singular Soil Carbon Code²⁴ is desperately needed, to standardise measuring, modelling, permanence requirements and provide governance around selling Carbon credits from soils. The soil carbon credit market is still considered somewhat of a 'Wild West', whereas there are established codes for Woodlands and Peatlands. Yet, it offers a unique opportunity for farmers to increase carbon sequestration, implement soil and grazing management practices which benefit biodiversity, water quality and soil health, alongside earning a potential new income and helping to reduce GHG emissions.

The challenge with setting targets for soils is their variability and establishing current (and varying) baselines. However, in general, increasing Soil Organic Matter is a good ambition due to the multiple benefits it provides, although some areas will have high existing levels already (such as permanent pastures or habitats in good condition). A farm scale study at 'North Wyke' showed how interrelated Soil Organic Carbon stocks were with various other environmental and productivity indicators, correlating positively with water discharge quality, botanical diversity, liveweight gain and stocking densities.^{25,26}

As outlined in our response to the Welsh Government consultation on its Draft Soil Policy Statement, any additions to the current legal framework around soils must consider all types of land management and impacts on soil.

Whilst previous Cross Compliance requirements regarding the management and protection of agricultural soils were in 'return' for the Basic Payment Scheme payment, it is possible that these requirements are introduced as part of a regulatory baseline for all farmers..

The Control of Agricultural Pollution review has also recommended that these (Cross Compliance) requirements are replicated within the regulations. Any steps to bring such measures into regulation would benefit from industry consultation, to ensure they are practical and implementable. The Environmental (Principles, Governance and Biodiversity Targets) Bill will also seek to further strengthen environmental governance, compliance and targets. Soil

²⁴ <https://sustainablesoils.org/soil-carbon-code/about-the-code>

²⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1751731118000502?via%3Dihub>

²⁶ [Key Research Findings](#)

health also crosses over into the Sustainable Land Management objectives and the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 objectives, therefore any targets or legal frameworks for soils should be incorporated into these existing pieces of work.

It is important to emphasise the challenge for farmers having to comply with these regulations and expectations, whilst competing against other agri-food imports produced to far lower environmental standards.



Farmers Union of Wales' feedback on the draft soil policy statement

4th October 2022

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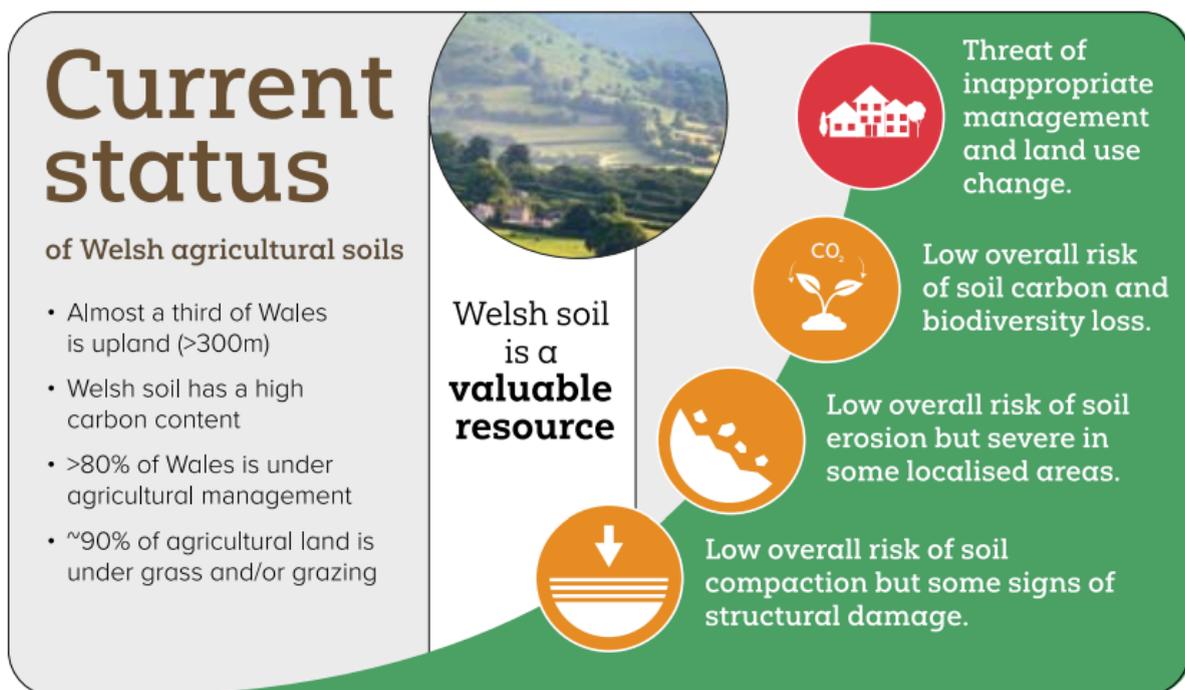
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Farming the Welsh Way

The Welsh Soil Evidence Review¹ is a welcome, useful review and a generally positive document which highlights the soil health benefits arising from the “Welsh Way”² of farming. Farming permanent grasslands (>80% of agricultural land in Wales), with mixed (cattle and sheep grazing together) and rotational/seasonal grazing (graze and rest systems, or summer/winter only hill grazing systems) on soils with a ‘higher greater carbon content than most soils in England and Europe’ all contribute towards;

- keeping soils covered
- a consequently low risk of soil erosion
- high soil organic matter content which contributes towards better water infiltration rates, higher carbon sequestration, and healthier soil microbiology and soil fertility

However, the review recognises the risks to soil health associated with land use change (such as afforestation, development or conversion to arable), inappropriate management (such as compaction) and climate change.



Insufficient consultation period to create a shared vision

The Welsh Government has aimed to gather feedback from farmers on the draft soil policy statement in order to ‘ensure it is fit for purpose and represents a shared vision for soil policy

¹ [Welsh Soil Evidence Review & https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-08/review-welsh-soil-evidence-executive-summary_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-08/review-welsh-soil-evidence-executive-summary_0.pdf)

² [The Welsh Way](#)

in Wales'. However, the FUW would argue that despite the importance of this work, the consultation period has not been transparent enough to ensure this is a genuinely shared vision.

For example, the draft statement was shared only three weeks before the deadline for comment, which has not given the FUW sufficient time to consult fully with its members in respect of its democratic structure. In addition, the small workshops held in September consisted of farmers who had noticed the sign up call during the week prior to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show makes it difficult to ensure that a wide cross section of farmers were consulted, especially given the soil policy needs to be fit for all farmers.

The key objectives were therefore arguably not shaped by those farmers or land managers who are managing soils every day, and who are most directly influenced by either support or regulations relevant to soils.

However, the FUW appreciates that the Sustainable Farming Scheme co-design has taken priority during this period. The FUW would therefore appreciate the opportunity to share the Welsh Government's response to this feedback with its county branches. Nevertheless, the comments provided below have been compiled from longstanding policies of the FUW.

A soil policy should be holistic

In addition, it is appreciated that the focus of the soil policy statement is on agricultural soils due to 80% of the land in Wales being managed for agriculture. However, that does not necessarily mean that agricultural soils are those with the highest risk of soil degradation. On the contrary, the review recognises the low risks that most of this management poses to soil degradation, therefore, a holistic soil policy should incorporate all land uses, especially those which result in more soil disturbance than permanent pastures - such as forestry (*“Activities associated with afforestation such as planting, management and harvesting disturb soil and can cause soil carbon loss during first rotation forestry”*³ [108]), housing, road building, and renewable energy plants.

Existing soil protection, regulation and the impact of competition on farming standards

The FUW welcomes the development of a soil policy and an increased focus on soil health, however, the statement claims 'there is no soil protection policy in Wales'. Conversely, farmers have to comply with a number of rules relating to soils in order to access financial support via the Basic Payment Scheme. For example,

³ D. Berdeni, J. Williams, and J. Dowers, "Assessment of the impact of tree planting on Welsh organo-mineral soils," Soil Policy Evid. Program. Rep., 2020.

- Cross compliance: rough surface soil guidance⁴
- GAEC 4: Minimum soil cover⁵
- GAEC 5: Managing land to limit soil erosion⁶
- GAEC 6: Maintenance of soil and organic matter⁷

Currently, managing soils in this way in addition to producing food is supported via the Basic Payment Scheme (which makes up around 80% of Welsh farmers' income). However, the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper⁸ proposed to make these rules 'National Minimum Standards'. Therefore, all farmers, regardless of whether they are in receipt of any subsidies, will have to comply with these regulations or risk civil sanctions against them.

Whilst Welsh farmers are proud of the high environmental and animal welfare standards Welsh food is produced to, there is a risk, particularly with liberalised trade deals being struck with large agri-exporters⁹ that UK agriculture will be undercut, or undermined by the produce being imported. The costs incurred with complying to these higher standards, or the production reduction means that raising the regulatory baseline for Welsh farmers may simply serve to make them uncompetitive at their current level of production, and consequently offshore the UK's environmental footprint to other countries, whilst becoming more dependent on imported food.

Therefore, if the liberalisation of free trade agreements and unfair competition continues, the Welsh Government will need to provide additional support for farmers to ensure environmental standards are upheld and farmers are able to stay competitive. Therefore, the FUW proposes the following changes to the objectives.

Rewarding farmer-led soil health enhancement - alternative objectives

The current objectives proposed are:

Maintain and enhance the soil resource, soil functions and services by:

1. Reducing soil degradation

- Maintain and enhance soil organic matter
- Minimise soil erosion
- Minimise soil compaction
- Foster soil biodiversity

2. Exchange knowledge on the value and vulnerability of soil

- Enhance effective enhance of knowledge between farmers, decision makers and

⁴ [Cross compliance: rough surface soil guidance](#)

⁵ [Cross compliance: minimum soil cover \(GAEC 4\) \(2020\)](#)

⁶ [Cross compliance: managing land to limit soil erosion \(GAEC 5\) \(2015\)](#)

⁷ [Cross compliance: maintenance of soil and organic matter \(GAEC 6\) \(2022\)](#)

⁸ [Agriculture \(Wales\) White Paper](#)

⁹ [Farmers' Union of Wales \(FUW\) submission to a Senedd Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs inquiry into the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement](#)

scientists

3. Maintain and develop soil monitoring and modelling

Additional monitoring of soil at local scales

Feedback outcomes to land managers to support farming decisions

The FUW proposes amending these objectives to enable more direct support to farmers for management actions they can take, or are currently undertaking, to enhance soil health.

For instance, the title of the first objective '*reduce soil degradation*' is at odds with the current low evidence of soil degradation on agricultural soils across Wales as a whole. 'No direct evidence for measured erosion rates'... 'grassland is generally considered to be at a low risk to soil degradation'. This gives an unjustified negative impression of agricultural soil management in Wales.

Furthermore, whilst administering and coordinating knowledge exchange, and undertaking additional monitoring are important and valuable objectives, they do not provide direct financial support for on-farm actions to enhance soil health enhancement or cover soil protection measures (as outlined is needed in Section 4.)

Therefore, the FUW would argue for the key objectives to be amended to:

Protect soil organic matter levels

- a) It is important to place an emphasis on protecting and maintaining soil organic matter (SOM) content in Wales, particularly due to its value as a large carbon store. Whilst in some instances, soil organic carbon (SOC) is at an equilibrium of emissions/sequestration in soils with existing high SOM levels (and therefore does not represent an active carbon sink) it is still a highly valuable and large carbon store in Wales (the total soil carbon stock in Wales is 410 Mt, with grasslands storing a large proportion of this). As the review emphasises, '*it is of national and global importance that this carbon is retained*'.
- b) Therefore, maintenance and protection measures supported by the Government are essential, particularly as any carbon market payments in the future will only value and pay for **new and additional** carbon sequestration.
- c) Placing an emphasis on the protection and maintenance of permanent pastures would also value the current agricultural management outlined in Section 1, whilst putting in place measures to avoid compaction (such as track infrastructure and water trough placement as practised on many dairy farms) or erosion, protection of peatlands, and preventing the soil carbon loss from afforestation onto organo-mineral soils.

Enhance soil organic matter levels

- a) SOM is the best indicator of carbon storage and sequestration, water retention and ease of infiltration, population and diversity of soil biota and accessibility of plant micro and macronutrients. Whilst SOM levels are typically high in Wales, there are multiple (and public) advantages to increasing these levels¹⁰, many of which would reflect the Sustainable Land Management outcomes the new Sustainable Farming Scheme is aiming to achieve¹¹ (see graphic below).

2.2 Sustainable Land Management Outcomes

The Scheme sets out a range of actions farmers can undertake. However, it is important we make a clear connection between these actions and the outcomes they are seeking to deliver. These are:



Clean air

Air which has limited pollution (human made particles and harmful gases) including fine particulate matter, ammonia and non-methane volatile organic compounds.



Mitigate flood and drought risk

Farms prepare for periods of low or high rainfall, reducing the risks to the farm and communities from flooding, drought and coastal erosion.



Clean water

The water environment (including inland water) is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and biodiversity.



Protected natural landscapes and historic environment

Conserve and enhance natural beauty, cultural heritage and the historic environment.



Enhanced access and engagement

People are more easily able to enjoy the countryside for health and wellbeing benefits.



Reduced greenhouse gas emissions

Farms reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, through making efficient use of fuel and energy, minimising external inputs and having productive livestock and crops.



High animal health and welfare

Animals are healthy, productive and have a good quality of life.



Resilient ecosystems

Maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems delivering benefits for biodiversity, species and habitats.



Maximise carbon storage

Creating new and enhancing existing carbon stocks on farms.



Resource efficient

Taking a circular approach by keeping resources and materials in use for as long as possible and avoiding waste.

- b) This could include supporting the management actions outlined in the Welsh Soil Evidence review which increases SOM such as; rotational grazing/seasonal grazing/graze and trample and rest management, deeper

¹⁰ [Rotational grazing shown to increase soil organic matter on Welsh farm](#)

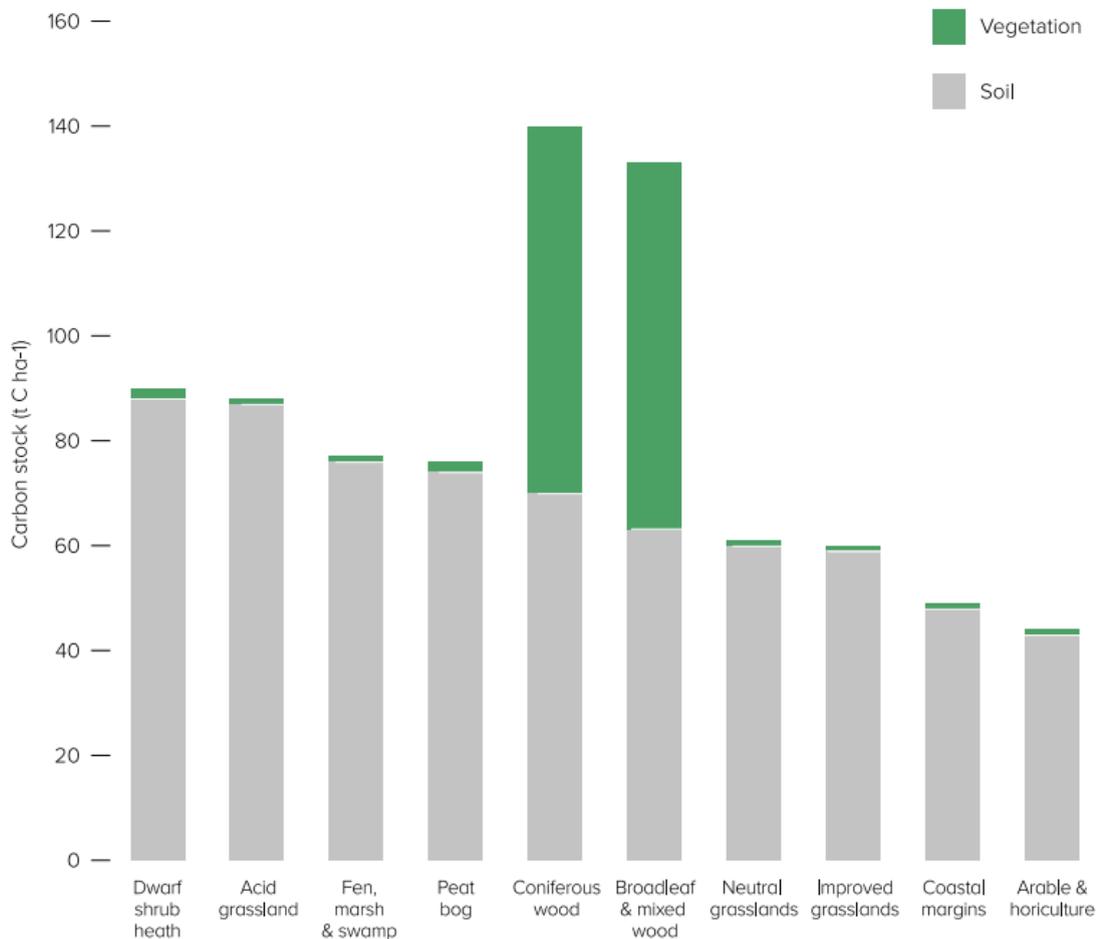
¹¹ [Sustainable Farming Scheme Outline Proposals for 2025](#)

rooting and more diverse grass species (whether through allowing native species to grow taller and set seed, or reseeded deeper rooting and mixed species leys into improved grasslands), increasing nitrogen fixing species, ensuring an efficient use of nutrients/inputs, minimum tillage etc.

- c) Increasing tree/woody cover has also been identified as a way to increase SOM when including trees on arable land due to the extensive litter, rooting and carbon inputs, however there is a risk of carbon **loss** when planting on high carbon soils, such as peat and organo-mineral soils. Therefore care must be taken not to apply this as a blanket policy to increase SOM/SOC. For example, whilst net carbon sequestration may increase due to the additional biomass within the tree/hedgerow cover (Figure 11), the Welsh Soil Evidence Review states that it can **decrease** the SOC levels (*Other studies have shown a decrease in topsoil carbon 14 years after planting trees in pasture in England [119] or no change in SOC or soil N 26 years after converting permanent grassland to silvopasture or woodland in Northern Ireland [120].) & 'adjacent grassland had a total SOC stock comparable to ancient woodland, which indicated that, for these sites, woodland creation on pasture had little benefit for soil carbon sequestration compared to woodland creation on former arable land [116].)* However, it is recognised that different benefits will arise such as increased crop yields due to reduced wind stress, livestock shelter, improved soil structure from rooting depth, and moderation of temperature extremes.

Figure 11: The soil and vegetation carbon stock in different habitats

Data ^[57] is from 15 cm deep soil samples in England. Woodland vegetation data is from 50-year-old average rotations.



d) Furthermore, the FUW believes there should be more of an emphasis within the soils policy statement on the **management of grasses and livestock to improve soil health and soil biodiversity**. The agricultural industry in Wales is already a leader in developing grass species¹², grassland management and in sustainable livestock management¹³, and therefore there is great potential in harnessing the existing experience and knowledge to further improve SOM and its associated benefits. Yet, the Welsh Soil Evidence review makes limited, or purely negative references to this potential - they state '*a major threat to soil biodiversity is the intensification and extensification of agricultural management*' (which seems contradictory as extensive livestock systems are generally seen as the opposite of intensive management), whilst then admitting that '*Limited evidence currently exists on trends in soil biodiversity in Wales*'.

e) For example, **plant/grassland diversity is a key driver of SOC formation and storage**. '*High plant diversity enhances SOC storage by elevating*

¹² [Aberystwyth celebrates 100 years of grass breeding at IBERS](#)

¹³ [Perfecting the Welsh Way](#)

*belowground carbon (i.e., root biomass and root exudates) inputs (13, 14) and promoting microbial growth, turnover, and entombment of necromass (15). Maintaining consistently high levels of biodiversity and root carbon inputs is essential for enhancing SOC storage and persistence in grasslands (Fig. 1)*¹⁴ The actions outlined in 2b could help encourage greater diversity into our grasslands, and value those which are already diverse.

- f) Furthermore, **‘grazing management and biodiversity restoration can provide low-cost and/or high-carbon-gain options for natural climate solutions in global grasslands. The achievable SOC sequestration potential in global grasslands is 2.3 to 7.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year (CO₂e year⁻¹) for biodiversity restoration, 148 to 699 megatons of CO₂e year⁻¹ for improved grazing management, and 147 megatons of CO₂e year⁻¹ for sown legumes in pasturelands.**¹⁵¹⁶ The FUW would argue these potential gains for Wales should not be dismissed, particularly due to their potential to create multiple benefits, nor impact negatively on food production.
- g) There is inconsistency and a lack of clarity in the review about the impact of stocking densities on soil health. Whilst it is understood that, like machinery, livestock can create compaction issues under certain conditions, however, grazing management can also be used to improve soil health and biodiversity. ‘Light grazing’ is referred to within the review in one section (6.3) as a reduction of stocking rates, and stated to be the most beneficial for soil carbon in grasslands. However, within the global analysis referenced, light grazing is used in the context of seasonal or rotational grazing, with other studies recommending high stocking densities in some instances to trample organic matter into the soil, and encourage growth to increase photosynthesis¹⁷. This implies that the rest period was more crucial than the stocking rate.
- h) Reductions in grazing, and the resultant loss of vegetation structure – for example through the dominance of species such as purple moor grass (molinia) - has had adverse impacts for species such as golden plover and other waders, including curlew¹⁸ - now considered the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK. Moreover, a more recent study found that trebling sheep numbers led to the largest increase in species diversity on mountain land compared with either the removal of sheep or the introduction of cattle.¹⁹ Similarly, analysis by Plantlife has shown that more than half of all wild plants need regular management or disturbance to thrive, and that 39.6%

¹⁴ [Grassland soil carbon sequestration: Current understanding, challenges, and solutions | Science](#)

¹⁵ [Grassland soil carbon sequestration: Current understanding, challenges, and solutions | Science](#)

¹⁶ [Pasture for Life: A solution to global warming](#)

¹⁷ [Managing Grazing to Restore Soil Health, Ecosystem Function, and Ecosystem Services](#)

¹⁸ Changing livestock numbers in the UK Less Favoured Areas – an analysis of likely biodiversity implications, RSPB, December 2012

¹⁹ Long-term impacts of changed grazing regimes on the vegetation of heterogeneous upland grasslands, Pakeman, R. J. et al., Journal of Applied Ecology (2019)

of species would decline within a decade if the land on which they grow is abandoned, while 16.4% would decline within 1-3 years under such circumstances.²⁰

- i) The review also reveals that in the past 30 years, whilst topsoil carbon was stable in improved land, it **decreased in habitat land** (and increased in woodland). Potentially the lack of livestock dynamics and disturbance has stalled this increase. Whilst the soils review is a comprehensive and detailed review, this area needs far more attention and research.

Increase farmer knowledge of soil management (including through gathering iterative data)

- a) As recognised in the draft soil policy statement, knowledge exchange between farmers, and knowledge transfer between experts and farmers is a powerful tool for improving the management of soils. Many farmers are already part of grazing groups, discussion groups and organisations which drive forward their performance.
- b) The FUW believes there is a great opportunity within the new Sustainable Farming Scheme and the proposed Sustainability Review to **pay farmers for the on-farm data they provide**, particularly as the Soils Review identifies many areas where more detailed and localised data is required. However, the data should then inform farmers as to what management support/capital costs/advice is needed from the Sustainable Farming Scheme payments based on the data, therefore, providing more **targeted support** and ensuring the data results in direct action/maintenance. Farmers already provide detailed data by completing the Single Application Form on an annual basis via RPW Online, and much more could be done to provide this data **back** to farmers, enabling benchmarking between farms in order to ensure there is an annual, iterative and useful process of data provision.
- c) Many farmers are undertaking carbon audits, however, the lack of consistency between calculators, particularly regarding carbon sequestration rates such as from soil, is a barrier to engagement. If the Welsh Government provided consistent, comparable and simple KPIs/proxies for carbon as part of the Sustainability Review, it would provide a large amount of useful data for both farmers and the Government, and begin the process of carbon auditing for many farmers.
- d) In addition, demonstrating the business value of soils is an important aspect of knowledge transfer, particularly as soils under agricultural management are not managed in isolation to the business (see objective 4). For instance nutrient management cost savings/optimisation, value of dung beetles/earthworms, the impact of soil compaction on productivity, value of

²⁰ [Rewilding, July 2019](#)

liming etc. Many soil health indicators (such as compaction, earth worm counts) could also be incentivised and tested by farmers themselves, as opposed to being presented in a report, which would also increase knowledge and engagement in soils.

Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals relevant to soils:

(U) Carry out professional and farmer soil testing at Scheme entry and in time for contract renewal to include a combination of:

- Nitrogen (N), Potassium (P), Phosphorous (K), Carbon and pH
- a biological measure e.g. eDNA, respiration counting 'proxy' species (earthworms)
- a physical assessment e.g. infiltration rate, bulk density or Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS).

(U) Submit nutrient accounts and evidence covering N, P, K, C and pH.

(O) Optional Actions which impact a farm's nutrient use and soil condition can be found throughout this document, including actions to:

- supplement applied nitrogen with nitrogen fixing plants (establishing mixed swards, planning rotations, cover cropping)
- establish leys and crops with varied rooting profiles (establishing mixed swards, crop rotations, cover cropping)
- improve soil biology (diverse planting, graze and rest practices, minimum or no till, use of anthelmintic plants to reduce wormer usage, habitat management)

(C) Support for farmers to work together in a catchment to improve water quality.

(FC) Farming Connect will provide support for:

- soil sampling
- technical advice to interpret results and use it to benefit their farm and the environment
- farmer-led learning on soil health.

Ensure soil policy, regulation and support enhances, and does not damage, the economic sustainability of family farms

- a. 80% of the land in Wales is managed by farmers. Therefore, the management of soils is inextricably linked with the farming businesses and their economic viability and business decisions. They are dependent on each other. The potential negative impacts of market competition, pressure on standards and a higher regulatory baseline to both farming businesses and the health of soil are outlined above, therefore, including this objective would ensure that policies are not designed in isolation to these important considerations.
- b. Any policies which influence farming businesses must also consider the significant contributions such families make to Wales' economy, culture,

language and jobs - factors which are all underpinned by ensuring that farming enterprises remain financially sustainable.

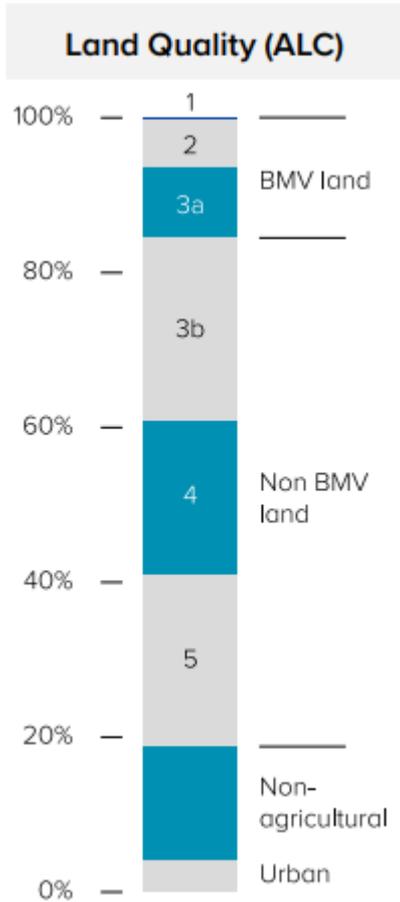
Additional considerations

The impacts of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 on soils in Wales must be taken into consideration.

The FUW has, on a number of occasions, raised concerns regarding the impact these regulations will have on grazing management and stocking densities. It is evident that the loss of upland and hill reared suckler herds would result in the decline in species diversity and therefore the regulations in their current form go against a longstanding policy of the Welsh government to support farmers through environmental schemes such as Glastir to graze cattle in recognition of the benefit it provides for biodiversity.

Furthermore, these regulations in particular will place significant pressure on cattle farmers to empty their stores before the closed period and spread as much as possible within the limits after the closed period to ensure that storage capacity limits are not exceeded, rather than spreading at the optimal time in regard to weather conditions, soil and crop requirements.

Consideration should also be given to protecting the Best and Most Versatile land for agriculture (10-15% of land in Wales), particularly as there will be more challenging growing conditions in the future. There will undoubtedly be pressure on BMV land from urban, mineral and land-based renewables, development and afforestation, however, the FUW would argue that food security in the future must be safeguarded.





Soil Association Cymru

Written Evidence Submission to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry: “Soil Health in Agriculture”

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April 2025

About the Soil Association

The Soil Association is a membership charity founded in 1946 by farmers, scientists, doctors, and nutritionists with a vision for good food produced with care for the natural world. Today, it develops and scales solutions for sustainable food and farming. Its Food for Life programme supports schools, hospitals, and caterers in shifting to healthy, sustainable diets. About 30% of primary schools in England are accredited. In Scotland, funded by the government, the programme now works with 18 of 32 local authorities to increase local and organic ingredients in school meals. In Wales, the Sustainable Food Places partnership, delivered by Food Sense Wales, promotes healthy, sustainable food in seven local authority areas. Soil Association Certification, our trading arm, works with over 6,000 businesses—farmers, growers, retailers, and manufacturers—in more than 50 countries, certifying over 14 million hectares of forest globally. A third of Wales’ organic farms are certified by Soil Association Certification.

Introduction

Soil Association Cymru welcomes this inquiry and we are grateful for the opportunity to submit evidence. Soil health is central to resilient, productive farming and to tackling the climate, nature and health emergencies, but for far too long soil has been in the shadows of environmental policy when compared to air, water, and biodiversity. As such this crucial natural resource has been left relatively unprotected and undermeasured.

Welsh Government has made progress in building the knowledge base on Welsh soils, and there may be opportunities for soil protection, restoration and research through the Sustainable Farming Scheme. However, Wales lacks a legally binding soil health target and national soil strategy and action plan.

1. The role of soils in agricultural systems

- 1.1** Healthy soils are essential to our ability to produce food, to control flooding and droughts and to limit the impacts of climate change.

- 1.2** The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN defines soil health as “the capacity of soil to function as a living system, with ecosystem and land use boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and promote plant and animal health...”¹ The FAO also suggests that “a healthy soil does not pollute its environment and does contribute to mitigating climate change by maintaining or increasing its carbon content”.
- 1.3** Knowledge about soils and soil health remains incomplete, notably about the variety of soil life and its role in sustaining soils.
- 1.4** Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and soil bacteria support plant growth by improving soil structure and recycling nutrients. The fungi act as root extensions, boosting nutrient uptake and helping to bind soil.

2. The state of soils in agricultural systems

- 2.1** In the last century, conversion of natural to agricultural ecosystems combined with detrimental practices such as deep and repetitive tillage, lack of organic amendments, overgrazing, monoculture and long bare-fallowing periods have caused the depletion of the Soil Organic Matter pool by 25%–75% across the globe^{2 3}. This is the biggest issue for soils because organic matter is critical to soil health, biodiversity, productivity and carbon storage.
- 2.2** Particular risks to soil organisms and organic matter arising from farming practices that prevailed since the latter half of the 20th century include:
- 2.3** Over-application of synthetic fertilisers, which can reduce soil organic matter levels and increase soil acidity, reducing the habitat quality for soil organisms and the diversity of soil microorganisms. Reduced soil life and function affects crop growth, development and disease incidence. By reducing soil life synthetic fertilisers can create dependency as the soil loses its natural ability to supply nitrogen and other elements and nutrients to plants, whilst the excessive application of chemicals leach from soils, polluting environments near and far. The latest Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) National Trends and Glastir Scheme evaluation Report (2025)⁴ notes that the majority of improved grassland sites surveyed (72%) have “soil acidity levels which remain below the production threshold which is most likely linked to the continued use of synthetic fertiliser without the accompanying use of lime”.

¹ [Plant Production and Protection Division: What is a healthy soil?](#)

² Lal, R., 2011. "Sequestering carbon in soils of agro-ecosystems," Food Policy, Elsevier, vol. 36 (Supplement), pages 33-39, January.

³ Sanderman et al., (2017) [Soil carbon debt of 12,000 years of human land use](#), Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 114 (2017), pp. 9575-9580

⁴ [Report 105. Wales National Trends and Glastir Evaluation.pdf](#)

2.4 Repeated cultivations, physically disrupting the habitat for soil organisms and, by aerating the topsoil, accelerating the microbial breakdown of soil organic matter. One major cause for concern is the reduction in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal diversity and biomass in UK soils. These are fungal networks associated with most crops that provide key benefits and are keystones within healthy soil communities.

2.5 The prevalence of monoculture crops, which fail to provide the variety of conditions necessary for a diverse range of soil organisms to thrive.

2.6 Pesticides that can kill not only the intended target, but also other beneficial organisms. Some pesticides are known to persist in soils, long after their intended use. This chemical contamination leads to a decrease in soil biodiversity.

2.7 The latest ERAMMP National Trends and Glastir Scheme evaluation Report (2025)² data for soils indicates:

- stability in the national topsoil carbon concentration albeit an 8% loss in topsoil carbon concentration in arable and horticulture habitats
- 6-32% increase in soil compaction
- 4% of soils in Wales eroded or disturbed
- a 15% increase in phosphorus levels in improved grassland soils and three-fold increase in the number of improved grassland sites exceeding the leaching threshold for water quality
- a two-fold increase in the number of sites exceeding the leaching threshold for phosphorus in arable soils and a 7.7% loss of topsoil carbon
- 72% of improved grassland sites retain soil acidity levels below production thresholds

2.8 The underlying driver of soil degradation in the UK has arguably been the specialisation and separation of arable and livestock production, in pursuit of ever cheaper commodity crops, but at great cost to the environment, health and animal welfare.

2.9 Around 3.9 million hectares of farmland in England and Wales are at risk of compaction, largely due to late harvesting of crops (eg maize) and over-cultivation, which have disrupted traditional soil-regenerating practices.

2.10 In eastern England, arable soils degrade as synthetic inputs replace organic matter and diverse crop rotations. Heavy machinery worsens compaction, affecting productivity, carbon storage, and flood resilience.

2.11 In Wales and the west of England, intensive livestock farming produces more manure and slurry than soils can absorb. The Wye catchment sees over 6,000 tonnes of phosphorus annually, mainly from the rapidly growing poultry sector⁵.

⁵ [Re-focusing Phosphorus use in the Wye Catchment](#)

- 2.12** Manure phosphorus in the Wye catchment exceeds land needs by 45%, with the surplus polluting rivers and causing serious ecological harm.
- 2.13** In contrast to the risks to soil health associated with these farm types, organic farms have healthier soils. When compared to non-organic farms, organic farm soils perform significantly better against a range of soil health indicator. Long term studies have shown higher levels of soil microorganisms on organic farms compared with non-organic farmland⁶ and organic farms have higher levels of soil organic matter⁷. They are also found to show better resilience against drought⁸.

3. Monitoring of soil health

- 3.1** Despite an increasing interest in recent years, the existing data on soil health remains limited. Without data it is difficult to know where to start in order to protect and restore soils.
- 3.2** The data that does exist is fragmented and disjointed, as it is recorded by a variety of businesses and institutions, with different methods of soil sampling and analysis. Gaps in the publicly available data sets on Wales' varying soil types, functions and condition makes it difficult to measure progress or to establish a baseline for farmers to work with.
- 3.3** Much of the UK has been stuck for far too long in a circular bind, in which there are no agreed legally binding soil health improvement targets, due to insufficient data to establish a national baseline, and national soil monitoring schemes lack investment because soil health isn't prioritised relative to other focus areas like water, air and biodiversity with legally binding targets.
- 3.4** The European Union Soil Strategy for 2030 identified the lack of legislation as a key cause of soil decline in the EU. A 2023 directive will introduce mandatory soil health monitoring across all land types, covering chemical, physical, and biological properties. We discuss the need for legally binding soil targets to drive action in Wales in Section 6.
- 3.5** The Soil Association believes farmers have a key role to play in gathering data to help monitor soil health. Many are already doing so – as explored by various field labs within

⁶ Henneron, L et al. (2015) '[Fourteen years of evidence for positive effects of conservation agriculture and organic farming on soil life](#)', Agronomy for Sustainable Development, 2015, 35:1 169 – 181 doi:10.1007/s13593-014-0215-8.

⁷ Tuomisto et al. (2012) Does organic farming reduce environmental impacts? A meta analysis of European research. Journal of Environmental Management, 112, December 2012, 309-320

⁸ Muller et al. (2016) Organic farming, climate change and beyond. IFOAM EU and Fibl, p12: "organic farming systems are more resilient to changing weather conditions, such as extreme droughts and extreme rainfall."

the Innovative Farmers Programme (eg “Collective approach to improving soil health in the Orton Fells”⁹), which supports farmer-led research and innovation.

- 3.6** We believe that all farmers should know their soil health and how it compares to similar farms. With proper support, farmers can monitor and improve soil health, helping to fill gaps in our understanding of soils and uncover opportunities for funding and innovation. We provide views on the Sustainable Farming Scheme in section 5.
- 3.7** The Sustainable Soils Alliance recently identified¹⁰ 26 soil metrics in use within 34 schemes or initiatives in widespread use by organisations and governments looking to influence or prescribe how farmers measure and assess their soil. For on-farm soil health monitoring to be most effective we urgently need a cohesive, standardised approach that will help join the dots between the various sectors involved – from farmers, to businesses, researchers, and policymakers.
- 3.8** The Global Farm Metric¹¹ developed by the Sustainable Food Trust provides a common framework for farm sustainability. The Soil Association partnered with the Global Farm Metric as official delivery partner in the UK, launching Soil Association Exchange¹² in 2022. The service helps farmers collect data on sustainability metrics like biodiversity, water, and soil health, to improve farm sustainability and access to new finance opportunities.
- 3.9** For soil health, Soil Association Exchange gathers data across nine metrics (soil organic matter, soil organic carbon stocks, bulk density, Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure, total Nitrogen and C:N balance, earthworms, soil cover %, pH, and contextual soil information)¹³
- 3.10** Remote sensing technology is emerging to help target areas for in-field assessment, and for in-field assessment to help refine remote sensing data¹⁴. Soil Association is a delivery partner in a Horizon Europe Framework Programme project to validate and develop soil health indicators. The project is creating an open access European-wide digital infrastructure, termed “AI4SoilHealth” . This infrastructure will be used for assessing and continuously monitoring soil health metrics by land use and/or management. A soil health measurement app is due to launch in 2026, and the UK pilot site is the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology’s (UKCEH) Plynlimon research catchment.

⁹ [Soil health in Westmorland Dales](#)

¹⁰ [UK Soil Health Measurement Research.pdf](#)

¹¹ <https://www.globalfarmmetric.org/>

¹² [Profitable and sustainable farming | Soil Association Exchange](#)

¹³ [21f3ea_5acb58c9b5724003bcb16c563fa808c6.pdf](#)

¹⁴ [Soil mapping for precise land management | Farming Connect](#)

4. Classification of soils for land use

- 4.1** To date, 747 soil types have been identified in England and Wales, each with distinct properties shaped over geological time. These soils determine land productivity, influencing suitability for crops, livestock, and forestry, and play a key role in erosion, flood risk, and carbon storage.
- 4.2** We need a strategic approach to delivering the types of nature and climate friendly farming and the habitats that we need to avert the nature and climate crises and ensure food resilience.
- 4.3** We believe a land use framework informed by soil classification mapping is a key tool for shaping the policy needed to deliver this new approach to land. Soil Association has been calling for land use frameworks for years to give the clarity and confidence that nature-friendly farmers, land-users and progressive businesses need to invest in the future of the countryside.
- 4.4** It is therefore encouraging that Welsh Government Soils and Land Use Policy Team are considering the development of a soil functions and services map of Wales¹⁵.
- 4.5** Welsh Government’s “Soil function maps resource review” report of July 2024 states that “the aim of the map will be to provide best available information to support and balance land use decisions where trade-offs between soil functions and land use demands compete....The map will allow specialists and non-specialists to understand and quantify the impact of land use and policy decisions on a range of soil functions and services.”
- 4.6** Given that not all land is equally productive for food and that the way that land is farmed will determine whether Welsh Government can avoid unnecessary trade-offs between food, nature and climate we would also add that a soil function and services map must do more than merely guide land use change decisions, as a refinement of planning policy regarding the ‘best and most versatile land’ of ALC Grades 1-3a. A strategic approach to land use is needed to help target government support and regulation to encourage the farming *practices* or farm *types* that best match the carrying capacity or environmental vulnerabilities of the land.
- 4.7** On high yielding land, for example, regenerative practices and the use of ‘eco-infrastructure’ such as wildflower habitats, shelter belts and hedges can boost pollinators and pest control services to help sustainably optimise yields. Less productive land suits more extensive farming practices, including those which create and maintain semi-natural habitats, including meadows, heath, and wood pasture, which are critical for carbon sequestration and nature recovery. To tackle the nature and

¹⁵ [Soil function maps resource review](#), Welsh Government Soil Policy Evidence Programme 2023-24 report (July 2024)

climate crises, it is also critical to protect, restore and create woodlands, wetlands, and peatlands.

5. The policy and legislative mechanisms to protect soils and productive land (including the Sustainable Farming Scheme, National Minimum Standards and planning policy (amongst others))

5.1 To achieve healthy soils we need to focus on restoring multiple soil functions. This requires changes across the whole agricultural system. The Soil Association report, “Saving our Soils: healthy soils for climate, nature and health”¹⁶ (2021) offers a suite of policy actions to support this:

5.6 Provide clear incentives for farmers to monitor their soil health and improve it above their soil type baseline. Commit to a legally binding soil health target underpinned by properly funded national soil monitoring scheme.

5.7 Support farmers to increase plant and animal matter being returned to soil through an increase in cover crops/green manures and a reintegration of grass-fed livestock. This then needs to connect with policies around nutrient pollution reduction.

5.8 Increase incentives for farmers to increase use of minimum or no-till systems, along with support for drastically reduced pesticide use and conversion and maintenance of organic farming.

5.9 Covering up bare soil – farmers should be supported to increase use of fertility-building green manures/cover crops, or the of the area under permanent grassland and longer leys, particularly on vulnerable soils. A strict regulatory baseline needs to be developed to keep vulnerable soils better covered. Monitoring should include a minimum percentage of bare soils at any time of year.

5.10 Bring more trees into the farmed landscape – agroforestry systems protect soils from erosion by wind and water

5.11 Reducing compaction - awareness of this issue should be raised amongst farmers via advisory services and written guidance, and baseline regulations should have compaction prevention as a clear standard.

5.12 Designing crop rotations to improve soil health – longer and better rotations and intercropping should be incentivised alongside better support for farmers to move to niche and protein crops. New baseline regulations should help the transition away from basic rotations.

¹⁶ <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/24941/saving-our-soils-report-dec21.pdf>

Sustainable Farming Scheme

- 5.13** Elements of many of the Soil Association's 'Saving our Soils' policy actions are contained in the Sustainable Farming Scheme: proposed scheme outline (2024).
- 5.14** With proper guidance and data safeguards, UA3: Soil Health Planning could create a valuable national soil dataset, benefiting the SFS and enhancing soil regulation. Farmers' concerns about data privacy must be addressed to encourage uptake of the SFS.
- 5.15** Soil test results will also require interpretation to ensure that appropriate management responses and potential SFS actions are identified. The SFS should provide guidance to help all farmers in the scheme understand soil structure and soil biology if these are assessed, and to signpost to further sources of advice and SFS Optional and Collaborative actions.
- 5.16** There is a clear need and opportunity to turn Universal layer plans and reports into actions, such as through the Optional and Collaborative layer. Without this, the level of ambition of a number of Universal actions will remain similar to regulatory baselines in Wales or elsewhere in the UK.
- 5.17** As such, alongside the need to 'ratchet up' their requirements over time, such as to include requirements to assess other indicators of soil health (eg earthworm numbers and a Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure), the overall effectiveness of the soil standards will rely on the ambition of other SFS requirements, and how the scheme is delivered as a whole. Payment rates and advisory support for practices like nutrient and pest management and support for organic farming will be crucial for promoting soil-focused farm practice.
- 5.18** Similarly, opportunities to reduce risks to vulnerable soils could be delivered by Universal Action 13: Tree Planting and Hedgerow Creation Opportunity Plan if guidance and mapping involves soil types and vulnerabilities, plus topography and potential nutrient and soil runoff pathways, to suggest parts of the farm where tree planting or hedgerow expansion could deliver benefits for soil health.
- 5.19** SFS support for organic farmers (and conversion to organic) will be crucial, particularly to provide support for farmers to transition to sustainable farming practices in catchments where soils and water are at risk from the cumulative impacts of agricultural intensification. We welcome the rollover of Organic Support Payment in 2025, but the sector needs clarity around what support will be available in the SFS in 2026.
- 5.20** Current soil health regulations mainly target individual issues in a fragmented manner. A 2020 study by the University of Sheffield and ADAS found that while farmers recognised the importance of sustainable soil management, few applied a wide range of practices

holistically. Since farms are complex systems, future soil regulations and SFS support will be more effective if delivered using a whole farm system approach.

5.21 We suggest that further protection of soils in Wales could be achieved through SFS requirements towards maize growing, a high risk crop for soil erosion. The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) notes that much of Wales is regarded as marginal for maize growing, being wetter and more exposed than much of England.

National Minimum Standards

5.22 We believe the current regulatory framework across Wales is too fragmented and we supported the Agriculture White Paper (2020) proposals to consolidate existing legislation under a set of National Minimum Standards (NMS), applicable to all farmers and land managers in Wales regardless of whether they choose to enter the SFS. This will provide a level playing field across Wales and will ensure that the SFS is not undermined by farming businesses that are not participating.

5.23 We wish to see a commitment to develop an NMS framework. There are potential risks to soils, water, and biodiversity arising from further intensification of agriculture if farmers choose not to participate in the SFS. Furthermore, value for public money is reduced if SLM gains secured through scheme payments are offset by regulatory failure to control damaging practices or pollution on the same farm or elsewhere.

5.24 Within the Basic Payment Scheme's Cross Compliance framework a regulatory baseline for soil is provided by Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC). GAECs 4 (minimum soil cover), GAEC 5 (managing land to limit soil erosion) and GAEC 6 (maintenance of soil organic matter) represent the minimum standards of protection against soil loss and damage to soil health. We support recommendation 6 of the recently published statutory review of the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations: 2025 to bring GAEC 5 (managing land to limit soil erosion) into regulation within 18 months. However, GAEC 4 (minimum soil cover) is a non-statutory standard and gains function from Cross Compliance. GAEC 4 should be brought into the SFS and subsequently into NMS (alongside other soil-related regulation) to maintain protection against soil loss across Wales.

6. The potential for legal frameworks and targets for soils

6.1 Welsh Government's support for the Global Biodiversity Framework requires cutting nutrient losses to the environment by half and pesticide losses by two-thirds by 2030. While the SFS may help, Wales lacks a binding soil health target and national soil strategy to drive lasting progress.

6.2 It is welcome that Welsh Government have invested in soil monitoring in the last 10 years through the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme

and have established a Soil policy evidence programme to review evidence of the condition of Welsh soil and how agricultural practice is affecting it.

- 6.3 Wales does not yet have a dedicated soil strategy and soil action plan. The publication timeline for Welsh Government’s Soil Policy Statement is currently unclear. The statement will set out Welsh Government’s “vision for the sustainable management of agricultural soils for future generations”¹⁷.
- 6.4 We suggest an overarching vision should refer to all soil, acknowledging the importance of soil in urban and non-agricultural locations. These soils are often overlooked by policy, and due to lack of knowledge and understanding by managers are at risk of degradation.
- 6.5 The Well-being of Future Generations Act national indicator for 'Concentration of carbon and organic matter in soil,' is a key metric, as it reflects soil health, fertility, and its ability to sequester carbon, thus contributing to climate change mitigation.
- 6.6 However, Well-being indicators and a Soil Policy Statement alone are not enough. A comprehensive soil strategy and action plan that includes the policy, monitoring and investment is required to ensure that all soils in Wales are managed in a way that improves their health and productivity, supports biodiversity, and contributes to climate change mitigation.
- 6.7 Section 4 of the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 requires the Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish indicators and targets to measure progress towards achieving the SLM objectives. We would like to see a soil health target and indicators included in this suite.

¹⁷ [Soil management | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/soil-management)

Andrew RT Davies AS,
Cadeirydd,
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Buffy Williams AS,
Cadeirydd,
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

24 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Andrew a Buffy,

Deiseb P-06-1507 Rydym yn galw ar Brifysgol Cymru y Drindod Dewi Sant a Llywodraeth Cymru i greu cynllun hyfyw a chynaliadwy ar gyfer dyfodol hirdymor campws Llambod

Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Deisebau ar 10 Mawrth a bu'n trafod y ddeiseb uchod, a gyflwynwyd gan Esther Weller.

Cytunodd y Pwyllgor y byddwn yn ysgrifennu at y ddau ohonoch i dynnu sylw at y ddeiseb a chynigion amgen y deisebydd, sydd wedi'u cynnwys yn yr ohebiaeth atodedig, i'w hystyried fel rhan o'ch gwaith craffu parhaus.

Cytunwyd hefyd y byddwn yn ceisio codi'r ddeiseb mewn dadleuon ar y sector addysg uwch yn y dyfodol, ac yng ngoleuni'r camau gweithredu hyn gwnaed penderfyniad gan y mwyafrif o'r Aelodau i gau'r ddeiseb.

Mae'r manylion llawn am drafodaeth y Pwyllgor ar y ddeiseb, gan gynnwys yr ohebiaeth a'r camau y cytunwyd arnynt gan y Pwyllgor, ar gael yma: [P-06-1507 Rydym yn galw ar Brifysgol Cymru y Drindod Dewi Sant a Llywodraeth Cymru i greu cynllun hyfyw a chynaliadwy ar gyfer dyfodol hirdymor campws Llambod](#)

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech anfon eich ymateb drwy e-bost at y tîm clericio yn deisebau@senedd.cymru

Yn gywir,



Carolyn

Carolyn Thomas AS
Cadeirydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



P-06-1507 We call on UWTSD and the Welsh Government to create a viable, sustainable plan for the long-term future of Lampeter campus - Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 04 March 2025

Background information for Petitions Committee meeting 10/3/25

The university at Lampeter is Wales's oldest university; the 3rd oldest in England and Wales after Oxford and Cambridge. It is a globally significant institution of higher education. The decision to end undergraduate teaching at Lampeter marks a devastating blow not only to the Lampeter campus but to the cultural, historical, and educational heritage of Wales. UWTSD have allowed the closure of an institution that has shaped Wales's intellectual and cultural identity for nearly 200 years.

The decision has been framed as a financial necessity. We, the Lampeter Society, do not accept that narrative. The decline of Lampeter was not inevitable but engineered through successive cuts, neglect, and strategic missteps that reduced a once-vibrant institution to its current state. For decades, Lampeter has been deliberately and systematically stripped of its resources and identity. Fewer courses led to fewer students, which in turn justified further reductions - a clear and calculated process of managed decline.

The decision completely disregards the devastating economic and social impact on Lampeter and south Ceredigion. The 2008 HEFCW report explicitly warned that the closure of Lampeter would have a severe economic impact on the town and surrounding area. For a rural community like Lampeter, the university is not just an employer but a cultural and social lifeline.

Lampeter is more than a campus. It is an institution of global renown, a vital thread in the cultural fabric of Wales, and a symbol of resilience and intellectual excellence. Its closure represents a national scandal, and history will not look kindly on those who allowed this to happen.

The Lampeter Society calls upon UWTSD and the Welsh Government to develop a robust way forward that honours the institution's past while securing its future. Despite the current narrative, we believe it is certainly a matter for the Welsh Government. Not stepping in when the nation's Higher Education sector is struggling, and in some cases failing, is shortsighted and indeed contravening a precedent which has already been set.

The following are alternative proposals drawn up by the Lampeter Society for the Lampeter campus.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE LAMPETER CAMPUS

A strategic review of higher education in Wales is ultimately needed as the sector grapples with a nation-wide financial crisis with falling student demand; rising costs; tuition fee-value erosion; research being undertaken at a net loss; and an over-reliance on international student income. The solution to this crisis so far has been to cut costs by reducing or closing down departments and faculties – as is the case with UWTSD, Bangor University, University of South Wales and Cardiff University. However, education should not be seen as a cost burden but rather as an investment in the nation's future. What is ultimately needed is a global and integrated vision of the future and a planned approach to reform and consolidation of HE institutions in Wales. A world-class University of Wales with member branches and campuses would rationalise course distribution, encourage world class departments, attract globally recognised academics and would reduce competition between campuses/universities across Wales.

There are four **local business options** for Lampeter on the table. These are:

I - Positioning Lampeter as a leading institution in heritage-driven education and research excellence, developing interdisciplinary degree programmes combining humanities with practical and emerging fields, such as digital studies and sustainability

II – Offering a mainstream humanities degree teaching programme that focusses on popular subjects that the Lampeter Campus is noted for globally, and allied with the **Centre for Advanced Celtic Studies**, the **Welsh National College** and the prospective **National Welsh Language Learning Institute**. The Lampeter portfolio would include Celtic studies & the Welsh language; archaeology; geography; creative writing & English; religious studies & theology; ancient/medieval history & classics; philosophy; and Chinese studies. Programme delivery would be low-cost, with a small core academic and support staff and the use of visiting 'star' alumni lecturers to add pulling power and admin volunteers

III – Turning the Lampeter Campus into an enterprise hub for Mid-Wales, offering entrepreneurship undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes that promote sustainable economic development and the concept of the green campus

NB – We believe the above options work alongside and support the Welsh Government's ***Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015***; widening access to participation and developing a cohesive and strengthened local community and economy.

IV – Leasing out part of the Lampeter campus to an international or Russell Group university, that is looking for a rural campus and an alternative approach

Lampeter's rural and community-oriented environment holds great advantages to non-traditional and neurodivergent students. Welsh universities are experiencing a quiet epidemic of student suicides; the University of South Wales alone had more than 10 suicides last year alone. The large university metropolis does not suit many young people; the mental health benefit of being able to study in a close knit friendly environment which Lampeter is uniquely able to offer cannot be underestimated.



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0636/25

Andrew RT Davies AS
Cadeirydd
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig
Senedd Cymru
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Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

25 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu i hysbysu'r Pwyllgor o'm bwriad i gydsynio i Lywodraeth y DU wneud a gosod Rheoliadau Rheolaethau Swyddogol (Ymestyn Cyfnodau Trosiannol) (Diwygio) 2025 ("Rheoliadau 2025").

Rydym wedi derbyn llythyr gan y Farwnes Sue Hayman, y Gweinidog Bioddiogelwch, Iechyd Anifeiliaid a Lles, yn gofyn am gydsyniad i'r Rheoliadau hyn. Mae'r Rheoliadau'n croestorri â pholisi datganoledig a byddant yn berthnasol i Gymru. Bydd y Rheoliadau yn ymestyn i Gymru, Lloegr a'r Alban ac mae cais tebyg am ganiatâd wedi'i anfon at Weinidogion Cymru.

Gwneir y Rheoliadau drwy arfer y pwerau a roddir o dan y canlynol:

- Erthygl 144(6) o Reoliad (UE) 2017/625 Senedd Ewrop a'r Cyngor ('yr OCR').

Diben Rheoliad 2025 yw ymestyn cyfnod gweithredu gwiriadau mewnfario ar rai nwyddau iechydol a ffytoiechydol penodol sy'n dod i Brydain Fawr ('DU') o rai gwledydd, tan 31 Ionawr 2027.

Bydd Rheoliadau 2025 yn ymestyn y cyfnod graddoli trosiannol rhwng 1 Gorffennaf 2025 a 31 Ionawr 2027. Bydd yr estyniad hwn yn gohirio gosod gwiriadau ar nwyddau iechydol a ffytoiechydol a fewnforiwyd o'r UE i'r DU. Mae'r offeryn hwn hefyd yn ymestyn hawddfrait sy'n oedi'r gofyniad am wiriadau mewnfario (sy'n berthnasol i weddill gwledydd y byd) mewn perthynas â phlanhigion, cynhyrchion planhigion, neu wrthrychau eraill (megis peiriannau a cherbydau a ddefnyddiwyd at ddibenion amaethyddol neu goedwigaeth) sy'n dod i mewn i Brydain o'r UE, Liechtenstein neu'r Swistir trwy Borthladd Arfordir y Gorllewin (fel y'i rhestrir yn y diffiniad o 'borthladd perthnasol' yn rheoliad 3 o'r Rheoliadau Rheolaethau Swyddogol (Iechyd Planhigion) (Amllder Gwiriadau) 2022) cyn 31 Ionawr 2027, yn unol â diwedd y Cyfnod Graddoli Trosiannol (TSP). Y rhesymeg dros yr estyniad hwn yw atal unrhyw darfu ar fasnach a chaniatáu digon o amser i drosglwyddo i sail ddeddfwriaethol barhaol ar gyfer y Model Gweithredu Targed Ffiniau.

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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.

Tudalen y pecyn 64
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.

Nid yw Rheoliadau 2025 yn ymrwmo Gweinidogion Cymru i fabwysiadu unrhyw safbwynt gan Lywodraeth y DU ar bioddiogelwch yn y dyfodol. Nid yw'r Rheoliadau yn lleihau nac yn tansilio pwerau Gweinidogion Cymru mewn unrhyw ffordd.

Er mai egwyddor gyffredinol Llywodraeth Cymru yw y dylai'r gyfraith sy'n ymwneud â materion datganoledig gael ei gwneud a'i diwygio yng Nghymru, ar yr achlysur hwn, ystyrir ei bod yn briodol i'r offeryn hwn fod yn berthnasol i Gymru gan nad oes gwahaniaeth polisi rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a'r DU yn y mater hwn. Credaf nad deddfu ar wahân i Gymru fyddai'r ffordd fwyaf priodol o weithredu'r newidiadau angenrheidiol na defnydd darbodus o adnoddau Llywodraeth Cymru o ystyried blaenoriaethau pwysig eraill.

Rwyf wedi ysgrifennu yn yr un modd at Mike Hedges AS, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad.

Yn gywir,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Eitem 3.3

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0126/25

Mike Hedges AS
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

25 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Mike,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch yn unol â'r cytundeb cysylltiadau rhyngsefydliadol i roi gwybod i chi y bydd cyfarfod Gohirio y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar gyfer yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig a a oedd i fod i gael ei gynnal yn wreiddiol ar 10 Mawrth nawr yn cael ei gynnal ar 31 Mawrth. Byddaf yn cynrychioli Llywodraeth Cymru.

Mae disgwyl i'r cyfarfod ganolbwyntio ar yr economi gylchol, clefydau anifeiliaid, trafodaeth ar gytundeb iechydol a ffytoiechydol posibl rhwng y DU a'r UE, Labelu 'Not for EU', ac effaith y Ddeddf Farchnad Fewnol ar sector EFRA. Byddaf yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i chi am y trafodaethau, a bydd hysbysiad yn cael ei gyhoeddi ar ôl y cyfarfod.

Rydym hefyd yn cynnal cyfarfod pedwarochrog ar ffiniau gyda'r Farwnes Hayman ar yr un diwrnod.

Rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn hefyd at y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith a Phwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and
Rural Affairs

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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.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn cael ei hateb yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi wrth ymateb.

Tudalen y pecyn 66

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0135/25

Mike Hedges AS
Cadeirydd
Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Senedd Cymru
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Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

13 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Mike,

Rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch yn unol â'r cytundeb cysylltiadau rhyngsefydliadol i roi gwybod i chi fod cyfarfod y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar gyfer yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig y bwriedir am 31 Mawrth wedi'i ohirio. Disgwylir i'r cyfarfod nesaf gael ei gynnal ar 12 Mai.

Rwy'n anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn hefyd at y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith a Phwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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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.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn cael ei hateb yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi wrth ymateb.

Tudalen y pecyn 67

Andrew RT Davies AS,
Cadeirydd,
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

27 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Ynghylch deiseb P-06-1253 Gwahardd rasio milgwn yng Nghymru, deiseb P-06-1354 Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gefnogi rasio milgwn yng Nghymru, a deiseb P-06-1391 Dylid rheoleiddio'r sector steilio cŵn, er mwyn diogelu lles cŵn a hawliau perchnogion.

Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Deisebau ar 10 Mawrth a bu'n ystyried y ddwy ddeiseb uchod ar rasio milgwn, y gyntaf a gyflwynwyd gan Hope Rescue a'r ail gan David Tams, cyn mynd ymlaen i ystyried deiseb ar reoleiddio'r sector steilio cŵn, a gyflwynwyd gan Brian Howell.

Nododd y Pwyllgor fod bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno gwaharddiad ar rasio milgwn yn glir. Cytunwyd i ysgrifennu atoch fel Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig, y pwyllgor arweiniol ar gyfer craffu ar y cynlluniau deddfwriaethol hyn, i roi gwybod i chi am y ddwy ddeiseb ar rasio milgwn. Mae'r Pwyllgor wedi cytuno i gau'r ddwy ddeiseb hyn.

Er bod mwyafrif yr Aelodau wedi cefnogi'r gwaharddiad, nid yw Joel James AS yn cefnogi gwaharddiad fel y ffordd ymlaen i fynd i'r afael â materion lles anifeiliaid, a nodir ei farn ar Ddeiseb P-06-1253 ym mharagraff 27 o adroddiad y Pwyllgor '[Y Troad Terfynol?](#)' yn 2022.

Wrth drafod y tair deiseb nodwyd bod ymgynghoriad ehangach wedi'i gynnal ar [Drwyddedu Sefydliadau, Gweithgareddau ac Arddangosfeydd Lles Anifeiliaid](#), a oedd yn cynnwys trwyddedu'r sector steilio cŵn, a bod angen gwaith craffu manwl ar gynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer materion lles anifeiliaid fel rhan o'r ymgynghoriad ehangach hwnnw.

O ran Deiseb P-06-1391 Dylid rheoleiddio'r sector steilio cŵn, er mwyn diogelu lles cŵn a hawliau perchnogion, cytunwyd y byddwn i'n ysgrifennu at Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig i ofyn am ragor o wybodaeth am yr amserlen ar gyfer darparu [model cenedlaethol ar gyfer rheoleiddio lles anifeiliaid](#) Llywodraeth Cymru, i ymdrin â thrwyddedu'r sector steilio cŵn.



Gellir dod o hyd i fanylion llawn ystyriaeth y Pwyllgor o'r tair deiseb, gan gynnwys yr ohebiaeth a'r camau y cytunwyd arnynt gan y Pwyllgor yma:

P-06-1253 Gwahardd rasio milgwn yng Nghymru

P-06-1354 Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gefnogi rasio milgwn yng Nghymru

P-06-1391 Dylid rheoleiddio'r sector steilio cŵn, er mwyn diogelu lles cŵn a hawliau perchnogion

Yn gywir,



Carolyn Thomas AS
Cadeirydd

Cyflwyno rheoleiddio'r sector ymbincio cŵn, er mwyn diogelu lles cŵn a hawliau perchnogion

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf P-06-1391
Ein cyf HIDCC/00617/25

Carolyn Thomas AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

02 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Carolyn,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 25 Mawrth ynghylch deiseb P-06-1391, i gyflwyno rheoleiddio i'r sector trin cŵn.

Cafodd rheoleiddio trin anifeiliaid anwes ei gynnwys fel rhan o'n hymgyngoriad cyhoeddus ar [Drwyddedu Sefydliadau Lles, Gweithgareddau ac Arddangosfeydd Anifeiliaid](#). Cyhoeddwyd [crynodeb yr ymatebion](#) ar 18 Rhagfyr, ochr yn ochr â [Datganiad Ysgrifenedig](#). Rwy'n bwriadu cyhoeddi datganiad pellach yn manylu ar y camau nesaf yn y Gwanwyn.

Fel y nodir yn yr ymgynghoriad, dyma'r cam cyntaf yn yr ymrwymiad i ddatblygu Model Cenedlaethol ac ni allaf achub y blaen ar y canlyniad ar hyn o bryd.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

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Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr un iaith ac ni fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Tudalen y pecyn 70
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.



Andrew RT Davies AS
Cadeirydd, Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach, a
Materion Gwledig

27 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Cadeirydd,

Yn ystod y sesiwn graffu gyffredinol ar yr Economi Sylfaenol ar 14 Tachwedd 2024, nodwyd y cwestiynau canlynol fel meysydd y byddwn yn mynd ar eu trywydd gyda'r Pwyllgor.

Mewn perthynas â'r Brentisiaeth Gradd mewn Peirianeg Rheilffyrdd a ddarperir gan Brifysgol De Cymru a Choleg y Cymoedd, a fyddai modd inni weld y ffigurau recriwtio presennol, yn ogystal â'r ffigurau recriwtio a ragwelir ar gyfer y blynyddoedd nesaf?

Mae Medr, sef yr awdurdod newydd ar gyfer addysg drydyddol ôl-16, wedi nodi bod yr amcangyfrifon gan ddarparwyr ar gyfer cofrestriadau diwedd blwyddyn ym mis Ionawr 2025 yn dangos ei bod yn debyg y byddai dau fyfyrwr newydd yn cwblhau Gradd BSc Prifysgol De Cymru mewn Peirianeg Rheilffyrdd ar ddiwedd 2024/24, ac y byddai deg myfyrwr presennol (o 2023/2024 yn cwblhau'r radd ar ddiwedd 2024/25).

Gan nad yw Medr wedi gofyn i Brifysgol De Cymru gyflwyno eu hamcangyfrifon ar gyfer nifer y bobl sy'n gwneud cais i wneud Prentisiaethau Gradd yn 2025/2026, nid oeddent yn gallu rhagweld unrhyw ffigurau recriwtio ar gyfer y blynyddoedd nesaf.

A fyddai modd inni gael rhagor o fanylion ynghylch y camau sy'n cael eu cymryd i gefnogi prentisiaethau sgiliau yn y sector tai, yn enwedig o ran datgarboneiddio tai?

Rydym yn blaenoriaethu buddsoddiadau i ddiwallu ein hanghenion sgiliau presennol a'r sgiliau a fydd eu hangen yn y dyfodol drwy ddatblygu prentisiaethau mewn sectorau sy'n tyfu a galwedigaethau sy'n dod i'r amlwg, yn unol â blaenoriaethau a bennir gan Bartneriaethau Sgiliau Rhanbarthol, gwybodaeth am y farchnad lafur ac adolygiadau o'r sector gan Cymwysterau Cymru.

Rydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda Medr sy'n adolygu cynnwys fframweithiau a llwybrau prentisiaeth, gan ganolbwyntio ar ddatblygu ac addasu'r prentisiaethau hynny sy'n cefnogi ein nodau sero net a chynaliadwyedd. Ar hyn o bryd mae gan Medr Fframwaith Tai ar Lefel 2 a Lefel 3 ac mae newydd ddatblygu Fframwaith Lefel 4. Disgwylir i'r Fframwaith Tai Lefel

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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.

4 sydd newydd gael ei ddatblygu gael ei gyhoeddi erbyn diwedd mis Chwefror 2025, a bydd yn cynnwys modiwlau ar gynaliadwyedd.

Canfu adolygiad gan Cymwysterau Cymru yn 2018 fod cyflogwyr yn credu nad oedd prentisiaethau adeiladu yng Nghymru yn diwallu eu hanghenion. Yn dilyn yr adolygiad hwn, datblygodd Cymwysterau Cymru, gan weithio gyda'r sector, drefniadau newydd lle mae'r rhan fwyaf o ddysgwyr yn cwblhau Cymhwyster Sylfaen yn y coleg yn y flwyddyn gyntaf ac wedyn yn symud ymlaen i brentisiaeth ar Lefel 3. O dan y trefniadau hyn, dim ond lleiafrif o ddysgwyr y disgwylir iddynt ddechrau prentisiaeth ar Lefel 3 yn sydd ar ôl gadael yr ysgol.

Ar hyn o bryd rydym yn gweithio gyda Bwrdd Hyfforddi'r Diwydiant Adeiladu (CITB), darparwyr hyfforddiant a Cymwysterau Cymru i adolygu effaith y trefniadau newydd hyn, gan ganolbwyntio'n benodol ar ofynion mynediad, yr effaith ar ddechrau prentisiaethau, gwneud cynnydd a chwblhau prentisiaethau.

Mae ymrwymiad yn ein Rhaglen Lywodraethu i ehangu prentisiaethau a rennir ar gyfer cyflogwyr, sectorau a rhanbarthau newydd. Er mwyn cyflawni'r ehangu hwn, gwnaethom gyflwyno model cyllido a darparu newydd yn 2022. Mae darparwyr yn y sector adeiladu'n parhau i gynnig prentisiaethau a rennir nad ydynt yn cael eu hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gyflogwyr, gan ganiatáu iddynt barhau i gael gafael ar gyllid CITB. Er enghraifft, mae Cartrefi Melin yn gweithio gyda Chyngor Sir Fynwy ac Y Prentis ar brentisiaethau sy'n seiliedig ar adeiladu.

Mae colegau hefyd cynyddu eu darpariaeth Sgiliau Gwyrdd yn y Sector Adeiladu, drwy ddarparu amrediad o gyrsiau, gyda'r nod o uwchsgilio mewn perthynas â mesurau effeithlonrwydd ynni yn ogystal â chyflwyno cyrsiau sydd â'r nod o wneud yr agenda ôl-osod yn fwy tryloyw.

Yn unol â'r ymrwymiad yn y Rhaglen Lywodraethu i gynyddu prentisiaethau gradd, CITB, gan weithio'n agos gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a rhanddeiliaid sy'n cynnwys cyflogwyr, prifysgolion a chyrff proffesiynol, a oedd yn arwain y ffordd wrth ddatblygu llwybr adeiladu newydd a datblygu llwybrau newydd mewn peirianeg sifil, mesur meintiau, arolygu a rheoli adeiladu. Yn dilyn y gwaith hwn, mae llwybrau'r fframwaith prentisiaethau gradd mewn adeiladu wedi cael eu cynnig ers mis Medi 2024 gan Brifysgol De Cymru, Prifysgol Wrecsam a Phrifysgol Cymru y Drindod Dewi Sant.

Gan gyfeirio at y Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol, a all y Gweinidog gadarnhau a yw'r holl undebau llafur o fewn Trafnidiaeth Cymru bellach wedi ymrwymo i weithio'n unol â'r Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol honno? At hynny, ac yn ehangach ar draws cyrff cyhoeddus eraill, a ydych yn hyderus y byddant yn cael eu cefnogi ag amser digyswllt hefyd?

Rhaid i gyrrff cyhoeddus sy'n ddarostyngedig i'r Ddyletswydd Llesiant yn Neddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 osod a chyhoeddi amcanion wedi'u cynllunio i gynyddu cymaint ag y bo modd eu cyfraniad at gyflawni pob un o'r nodau llesiant; a chymryd pob cam rhesymol i gyflawni eu hamcanion.

Ers 1 Ebrill 2024, mae gan y cyrff cyhoeddus hynny ddyletswydd partneriaeth gymdeithasol i geisio consensws neu gyfaddawdu â'u hundebau llafur cydnabyddedig neu, lle nad oes undebau llafur cydnabyddedig, cynrychiolwyr eraill eu staff, wrth osod neu adolygu a chyflawni eu hamcanion llesiant. Felly, ar y cyrff cyhoeddus y mae'r ddyletswydd, yn hytrach na'r undebau llafur. Gallaf gadarnhau bod y Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol yn berthnasol i Trafnidiaeth Cymru, ac felly mae'n ofynnol iddynt geisio consensws neu gyfaddawd gyda'u holl undebau llafur cydnabyddedig.

Mae penderfyniadau ynghylch amser digyswllt yn cael eu gwneud yn lleol ac nid oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru y pŵer i ymyrryd yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau lleol ynghylch y mater hwn. Fodd bynnag, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn cydnabod gwerth amser digyswllt ac yn ystyried amser o'r fath yn fuddsoddiad yn hytrach na chost. Mae'n allweddol ar gyfer sicrhau bod gan weithwyr y cyfle i gael eu cynrychioli ar y cyd, sicrhau bod gweithwyr yn cael gwybod am benderfyniadau arfaethedig a allai effeithio arnynt, a'i gwneud yn bosibl i weithwyr gymryd rhan yn y penderfyniadau hynny a dylanwadu arnynt. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ailadrodd wrth gyrff cyhoeddus bwysigrwydd amser digyswllt a'r disgwyliad i undebau llafur gael yr amser priodol i allu cymryd rhan lawn yn y gwaith o weithredu'r Ddyletswydd Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol.

Yn ystod y sesiwn, ymrwymodd Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Pwyllgor am y canlynol, unwaith y bydd cynnydd wedi'i wneud yn y gwahanol feysydd:

Canlyniad cyfarfod cyntaf y grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen a sefydlwyd gan y Cyngor Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol, ar ôl iddo gael ei gynnal.

Mae'r cyfarfod cychwynnol arfaethedig y grŵp ar 25 Chwefror wedi cael ei ohirio oherwydd aelodau sy'n methu dod, ac rydym wrthi'n trefnu dyddiad newydd.

Manylion buddsoddiadau yn y diwydiant lled-ddargludyddion, ar ôl i Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet ystyried dau achos datblygu presennol.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cefnogi buddsoddiad o £51 miliwn ar gyfer Vishay Intertechnologies. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys buddsoddi mewn offer newydd yn eu ffatri yng Nghasnewydd, gyda chymorth grant o £5 miliwn gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Bydd y buddsoddiad hwn yn helpu i ddiogelu 200 o swyddi yn y ffatri. Mae hyn wedi cael ei gyhoeddi.

Mae manylion terfynol yr ail fuddsoddiad wrthi'n cael eu trefnu ac mae yn y cam dogfennau cyfreithiol. Rydym yn disgwyl gwneud cyhoeddiad ddechrau mis Mawrth yn amodol ar gwblhau'r dogfennau cyfreithiol a'r diwydrwydd dyladwy yn llwyddiannus, a byddwn yn hysbysu'r pwyllgor pan fydd y prosesau hynny wedi cael eu cwblhau.

Gobeithiaf fod yr wybodaeth hon yn ateb yr holl gwestiynau a ofynnwyd yn ystod y sesiwn graffu gyffredinol.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a separator or underline.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership

Eitem 3.6

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0089/25

Andrew RT Davies AS
Cadeirydd
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

31 Mawrth 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 24 Chwefror fel dilyniant i'r sesiwn ETRA ar 5 Chwefror, ynglŷn â'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy (SFS).

Rydym wedi gwneud newidiadau sylweddol i'r camau gweithredu a'r gofynion arfaethedig i wneud y Cynllun yn fwy hygyrch a rheoladwy fel y nodir yn yr Amlinelliad o'r Cynllun a gyhoeddwyd ar 25 Tachwedd 2024. Mae'n dal yn fwriad gennyf i gyhoeddi'r Cynllun terfynol cyn gynted â phosibl yr haf hwn unwaith y bydd y cam presennol o waith gyda'r Grwpiau Ford Gron Gweinidogol a Swyddogion wedi dod i ben, ac mae gennym ganlyniadau'r dadansoddiad economaidd a'r asesiad effaith.

Mae'r dadansoddiad ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd, a bydd gennym yr allbynnau yn ddiweddarach yn y gwanwyn. Ni fydd Gweinidogion yn gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau terfynol nes bod gennym y dystiolaeth hon, ac mae wedi ei drafod gyda'r Bwrdd Crwn, cyn i'r Cynllun gael ei gyflwyno yn 2026.

Unwaith y bydd penderfyniadau terfynol y Cynllun wedi'u gwneud a dyluniad terfynol y Cynllun wedi'i gyhoeddi, byddwn yn cadarnhau ein cynlluniau ymgysylltu â ffermwyr. Bydd hyn yn rhoi rhagor o wybodaeth a chefnogaeth i ffermwyr am gynnwys y Cynllun a'r cyfleoedd o Gamau Dewisol a Chydweithredol sydd ar gael iddynt. Rydym yn bwriadu i hyn gynnwys digwyddiadau personol a gynhelir ledled Cymru.

Rwy'n rhannu eich barn ar bwysigrwydd darparu digon o gyllid aml-flwyddyn i gyflwyno Cynllun llwyddiannus. Rydyn ni eisiau gwneud hyn yn iawn gyda'r bwriad o gyflawni newid ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr un iaith ac ni fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Tudalen y pecyn 74
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.

Rydym yn gweithio gyda'r Grŵp Cyflawni Rhanddeiliaid Coed a Gwrychoedd a ffurfiwyd yn ddiweddar ar dargedau lefel cynllun SFS ar gyfer plannu coed a chreu gwrychoedd yn ogystal â datblygu'r cynllun plannu coed a chreu gwrychoedd a fydd yn rhan o Haen Gyffredinol yr SFS. Mae'r wybodaeth a rennir gyda'r Grŵp yn cynnwys yr arwynebedd tir yn yr ardal sensitifrydd isel ar gyfer y cynllun Creu Coetir Grantiau Bach: 995,243 hectar sy'n cynrychioli 48% o dir yng Nghymru. Mae'r grŵp yn ystyried sut y gellir dylunio'r cynllun plannu coed a chreu gwrychoedd mewn ffordd sy'n galluogi ffermwyr i gymryd y camau cadarnhaol hyn mewn ardaloedd a fydd o fudd i'w busnes fferm a'r amgylchedd ehangach.

Yn ogystal ag [Adroddiad Cryno](#) y Panel Adolygu Tystiolaeth Atafaelu Carbon a gyhoeddwyd fis Tachwedd diwethaf, mae'r adroddiad technegol llawn bellach yn cael ei baratoi i'w gyhoeddi. Mae hyn yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am y broses o gasglu'r dystiolaeth a'r dadansoddiad dilynol. Disgwylir i'r adroddiad llawn gael ei gyhoeddi tua diwedd mis Ebrill, unwaith y bydd y gwaith cyfieithu a dylunio wedi'i gwblhau.

Mae'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy yn cael ei gynllunio i ddarparu cefnogaeth sylweddol a hirdymor i greu diwydiant amaethyddol gwydn a chynaliadwy yng Nghymru gyda chynhyrchu bwyd o safon uchel yn ganolog iddo. Mae hon yn weledigaeth yr wyf yn siŵr ein bod ni i gyd yn ei chydhabod ac y byddwn yn cytuno â hi.

Yn gywir,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Ein cyf: PO/HIDCC/0090/25

Andrew RT Davies AS
Cadeirydd
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

2 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Diolch am eich llythyr ynglŷn â theitlau Arglwydd y Faenor a'r effaith ar dir comin.
Byddaf yn ymdrin â'ch cwestiynau fesul un.

Cwestiwn 1: Beth yw safbwynt presennol Llywodraeth Cymru ar y defnydd o deitlau 'Arglwydd y Faenor' i feddiannu tir comin?

Mae'n bwysig tynnu sylw at y ffaith bod tir comin a hawliau porwyr yn cael eu diogelu gan wahanol ddeddfau Seneddol, yn enwedig Deddf Tiroedd Cyffredin 2006. Mae'r fframwaith cyfreithiol hwn yn cynnwys darpariaeth ar gyfer ceisio rhwymedïau drwy'r llys ar gyfer gwaith anawdurdodedig ar dir comin a gweithgareddau amaethyddol anawdurdodedig. Mae hefyd yn diddymu cau tir gan y perchennog, cyfraith ganoloesol a oedd yn caniatáu i Arglwyddi y Faenor amgáu tir comin.

Gellid ystyried teitlau Arglwyddi y Faenor yng nghyd-destun perchnogaeth tir yn fwy cyffredinol, ac os yw tiffeddiannwr yn gweithredu y tu allan i'w hawliau, efallai y bydd amddiffyniad cyfreithiol ar gael, yn dibynnu ar yr amgylchiadau. Er enghraifft, gellid rhoi gwybod i'r heddlu am ymddygiad troseddol o fygythiadau neu drais. Gallai unrhyw waith cyfyngedig heb ganiatâd fod yn destun cais i'r Llys Sirol (gweler adrannau 38 a 41 o Ddeddf Tiroedd Comin 2006).

Gan y gall hawliau maenoraidd amrywio, nid oes safbwynt cyffredinol gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar y mater ar hyn o bryd. Pe bai gweithredoedd Arglwydd y Faenor, neu yn wir dirffeddiannwr, yn gweithredu y tu allan i'w hawl gyfreithiol, mae'n debygol y byddai'n cael ei ystyried yn fater preifat, ac mae'n debygol y byddai angen cyngor cyfreithiol annibynnol ar y rhai yr effeithir arnynt. Efallai y gallai undebau ffermwyr gynorthwyo pe bai ffioedd cyfreithiol ar gyfer cwmnïau cyfreithiol preifat yn ormod o faich.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb i ohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn yr un iaith ac ni fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Tudalen y pecyn 76
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.

Cwestiwn 2: A oes unrhyw waith polisi y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru ei wneud i sicrhau bod y cam o brynu'r teitlau hyn yn llai deniadol?

Fel y nodwyd uchod, mae hawliau tir comin a phorwyr cysylltiedig eisoes yn cael eu diogelu gan y gyfraith. Ar hyn o bryd prif ffocws Llywodraeth Cymru o ran tir comin yw gweithredu'r rhannau sy'n weddill o Ddeddf Tiroedd Comin 2006, yn bennaf Rhan 1, adran 25 a fydd yn cyflwyno cofrestrau electronig o diroedd comin a meysydd pentrefi. Bydd hyn yn helpu i sicrhau eu hirhoedledd ac yn darparu cofnodion hawdd cael gafael arnynt i gominwyr ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd.

Cwestiwn 3: Pa sefydliad(au) sy'n gyfrifol am y mater hwn a phwy ddylai fod yn cefnogi'r bobl yr effeithir arnynt?

Mae'n anodd rhoi ymateb llawn i'r cwestiwn hwn heb fanylion pellach. Fel y nodwyd, mae hawliau tir comin a phorwyr yn cael eu diogelu gan y gyfraith. Os amheuir ymddygiad troseddol gan unrhyw dirfeddiannwr neu Arglwydd y Faenor, yna dylid cysylltu â'r heddlu. Os yw'r mater yn torri deddfwriaeth tiroedd comin, er enghraifft a.38 o'r Ddeddf Tiroedd Comin 2006 lle mae gwaith cyfyngedig sy'n gofyn am ganiatâd yn cael ei wneud ar dir comin, mae'r Ddeddf yn galluogi unrhyw berson i wneud cais i'r Llys Sirol i gywiro'r sefyllfa. Efallai y gallai undebau ffermwyr hefyd gynorthwyo.

Cwestiwn 4: A yw'r Llywodraeth wedi rhoi unrhyw ystyriaeth i sut y gellir diogelu hawliau porwyr ar dir comin pan brynir teitlau 'Arglwydd y Faenor' ar y farchnad agored?

Mae hawliau tir comin a phorwyr eisoes yn cael eu diogelu gan y gyfraith. Os nad yw Arglwydd y Faenor yn gweithredu o fewn ei hawliau cyfreithiol ac yn atal y cominwyr rhag arfer eu hawliau, y rheolau y maent yn eu torri fyddai'n pennu'r camau nesaf. Er enghraifft, mae digwyddiadau o ymddygiad troseddol yn fater i'r heddlu. Os yw'n fater sifil, gallent fynd â'r achos i'r llys. Unwaith eto, gallai undeb ffermwyr eu cefnogi gyda hyn.

Cwestiwn 5: A gafodd y mater hwn ei drafod fel rhan o'r broses o ddatblygu'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy?

Mae sut y gall dirfeddiannwyr a'r rhai sydd â hawliau tiroedd comin gael mynediad at gyllid wedi'i ystyried yn llawn yn ystod camau datblygu'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy, ac mae'r Amlinelliad Cynllun diwygiedig a gyhoeddwyd fis Tachwedd diwethaf yn rhoi'r diweddariad diweddaraf ar ddatblygiad y cynllun. Os yw Arglwydd y Faenor neu dirfeddiannwr yn gweithredu y tu allan i'r gyfraith, mae hyn yn fater ar gyfer camau cyfreithiol neu, yn achos ymddygiad troseddol, yr heddlu.

Yn gywir,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Change and Rural Affairs

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0183/25

Andrew RT Davies AS
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Senedd Cymru
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SeneddEconomy@senedd.cymru

2 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Rheoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori (Esemptiadau) (Proses a Gweithdrefn) (Diwygio) 2025

Hoffwn hysbysu'r Pwyllgor o'm bwriad i roi caniatâd i Weinidog Defra dros Les Anifeiliaid a Bioddiogelwch, y Farwnes Hayman o Ullock wneud Rheoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori (Esemptiadau) (Proses a Gweithdrefn) (Diwygio) 2025 ("OS 2025"). Byddwch yn ymwybodol, ar adeg ysgrifennu, nad oedd fy swyddogion wedi derbyn fersiwn derfynol o'r offeryn.

Mae OS 2025 yn cael ei gwneud i ddiwygio Atodlen 1 (Sefydliadau Rhagnodedig) i Reoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori (Esemptiadau) (Proses a Gweithdrefn) 2022 (O.S. 2022/94) ("OS 2022").

Bydd OS 2025 yn ychwanegu tair enw ychwanegol at y rhestr o sefydliadau sydd â'r wybodaeth a'r arbenigedd angenrheidiol i roi cyngor i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol ar geisiadau am dystysgrifau esemptio o dan Adran 2 i Ddeddf Ifori 2018 ("y Ddeddf"). Mae'r rhain fel a ganlyn:

- Amgueddfeydd ac Orielau Cenedlaethol ar Lannau Mersi;
- Amgueddfeydd ac Orielau Cenedlaethol Gogledd Iwerddon; a
- Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru

Pwrpas trosfwaol y Ddeddf yw gwahardd gweithgareddau masnachol sy'n ymwneud ag ifori yn y DU, a mewnfario ac ailallfario ifori at ddibenion masnachol i'r DU ac oddi yno.

Mae'r Ddeddf yn gwahardd masnachu eitemau a wneir o ifori, neu sy'n ei gynnwys, gydag esemptiadau cyfyngedig ar gyfer masnachu eitemau ifori nad ydynt yn cyfrannu'n uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol at botsio rhywogaethau ifori yn barhaus. Mae Adran 2

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Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@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.

Tudalen y pecyn 78
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o'r Ddeddf yn darparu ar gyfer esemptiad ar gyfer eitemau ifori cyn 1918 o werth artistig, diwylliannol neu hanesyddol eithriadol o uchel.

Rwy'n falch bod amgueddfa yng Nghymru yn cael ei hychwanegu at y rhestr o 'Sefydliadau Rhagnodedig'. Mae gan Gymru dreftadaeth ddiwylliannol gyfoethog a thrwy gydnabod arbenigedd Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru, mae'r OS yn rhoi gwell mynediad i aseswyr ar gyfer pobl Cymru.

Hoffwn sicrhau'r Pwyllgor hwn mai polisi Llywodraeth Cymru fel arfer yw deddfu dros Gymru ar faterion o fewn cymhwysedd datganoledig. Fodd bynnag, mewn rhai amgylchiadau, mae manteision i gydweithio â Llywodraeth y DU pan fo sail resymegol glir dros wneud hynny. Mae'r DU wedi bod yn defnyddio dull unffurf o'r polisi hwn ers blynnyddoedd lawer a bydd alinio parhaus yn arwain at ychwanegu sefydliad Cymreig at y rhestr o 'Sefydliadau Rhagnodedig'. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau bod perchenogion a masnachwyr eitemau ifori sy'n preswyllo yng Nghymru yn cael y cyfle i drefnu bod eu heitemau yn cael eu hasesu yng Nghymru, ac o bosibl drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Nid yw'n glir ar hyn o bryd a allai hyn ddigwydd heb gydsyniad Gweinidogion Cymru. Er y gallai OS Cymreig gyflawni yr un canlyniad credaf yn gryf fod y manteision sydd ynghlwm wrth roi cydsyniad i OS y DU yn gwrthbwysu'n sylweddol y risgiau. Dyma'r dull mwyaf synhwyrol o sicrhau bod y polisi cymeradwy yn cael ei weithredu'n gyson heb unrhyw risg o wyro, o safbwynt polisi ac amseru.

Gosodwyd y Rheoliadau gerbron Senedd y DU ar 23 Ebrill 2025, gan ddefnyddio'r weithdrefn negyddol.

Rwyf hefyd wedi anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad, a'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol.

Yn gywir,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
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Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0183/25

Andrew RT Davies AS
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24 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Ymhellach at fy llythyr dyddiedig 2 Ebrill, ysgrifennaf atoch i'ch hysbysu fy mod bellach wedi rhoi caniatâd i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig wneud Rheoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori (Esemptiadau) (Proses a Gweithdrefn) (Diwygio) 2025.

Gosodwyd y Rheoliadau gerbron Senedd y DU ar 23 Ebrill 2025 gan ddefnyddio'r weithdrefn 'negyddol'. Rwyf wedi gosod Datganiad Ysgrifenedig i ddiweddarau'r Senedd a gellir ei weld yma: [WS-LD17131 - Datganiad Ysgrifenedig gan Lywodraeth Cymru Rheoliadau Gwaharddiadau Ifori \(Esemptiadau\) \(Proses a Gweithdrefn\) \(Diwygio\) 2025](#).

Rwyf hefyd wedi ysgrifennu at Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad, a'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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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.

Tudalen y pecyn 80
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Vikki Howells AS

Y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch

3 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Vikki,

Ymchwiliad i Lwybrau Prentisiaethau

Byddwch yn ymwybodol bod y Pwyllgor wrthi'n cynnal ymchwiliad i lwybrau Prentisiaethau, a bod y Pwyllgor yn ystyried yn benodol:

- Llwylbrau rhwng gwahanol lefelau o brentisiaeth: Pa heriau sy'n wynebu prentisiaid wrth geisio dilyn llwybrau gyrfa drwy wahanol lefelau o brentisiaeth, er enghraifft, o brentisiaeth iau i radd-brentisiaeth. A yw hyn yn anoddach mewn rhai gyrfaedd/sectorau nag eraill.
- Yr economi: I ba raddau y mae llwybrau prentisiaeth yn cefnogi anghenion busnesau Cymru ac yn cyfrannu at lenwi bylchau o ran sgiliau yn economi Cymru.
- Cyflogwyr: Sut y gellir ymgysylltu cyflogwyr â'r gwaith o hwyluso'r llwybrau hyn a denu prentisiaid. A oes angen cymorth penodol i helpu microfusnesau, a busnesau bach a chanolig, i ymgysylltu â'r rhaglen brentisiaeth.
- Gwybodaeth am brentisiaethau: Sut y gellir rhannu arfer dda rhwng gwasanaethau gyrfaedd, ysgolion, colegau a chyflogwyr o ran hyrwyddo prentisiaethau a darparu profiad gwaith ystyrlon.
- Cymorth a mynediad cyfartal ar gyfer dysgwyr: I ba raddau y mae llwybrau prentisiaeth yn agored i holl bobl ifanc Cymru a pha rwystrau sy'n wynebu grwpiau penodol o ran demograffig neu ardal ddaearyddol.

- Rôl Llywodraeth Cymru: Sut mae polisïau'n cefnogi llwybrau prentisiaeth ac a oes unrhyw rwystrau sy'n rhaid ymdrin â nhw yn hynny o beth. Pa rôl sydd gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Partneriaethau Sgiliau Rhanbarthol a rhanddeiliaid eraill o ran nodi a chyfleu anghenion economaidd ac anghenion o ran sgiliau i helpu i lywio fframweithiau prentisiaeth a'r ffordd y caiff cymwysterau eu cynnig.

Fel rhan o'r ymchwiliad hwn, clywodd y Pwyllgor dystiolaeth lafar gan Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio, ac mewn gohebiaeth ysgrifenedig yn dilyn y sesiwn hon gofynnodd, ymhlith ymholiadau eraill, am y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynnydd a wnaed wrth ddatblygu strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol. Mewn llythyr dyddiedig 13 Mawrth 2025, cadarnhaodd y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol mai mater i chi yw hwn, a gofynnodd i chi ysgrifennu i ddiweddarau'r Pwyllgor ar hyn.

Felly, hoffai'r Pwyllgor gymryd y cyfle i groesawu'r diweddariad hwn, a gofyn i chi anfon eich ymateb erbyn 24 Ebrill 2025, er mwyn i'r Pwyllgor ei ystyried yn ei gyfarfod nesaf. Byddai gan Aelodau ddiddordeb hefyd mewn nodi unrhyw farn sydd gennych ar unrhyw faes arall o'r cylch gorchwyl ar gyfer yr ymchwiliad, fel y nodir uchod, fel y gwelwch yn dda.

Edrychaf ymlaen at gael eich ymateb.

Cofion cynnes,



Andrew RT Davies AS

Cadeirydd: Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg





Andrew RT Davies AS,
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

24 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Andrew

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 3 Ebrill yn amlinellu cwmpas ymchwiliad Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig i lwybrau prentisiaethau.

Rwyf wedi cael golwg ar yr ymateb blaenorol a anfonwyd atoch gan fy nghydweithiwr, Jack Sargeant, y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol, ar 13 Mawrth yn gofyn i mi ateb un o gwestiynau'r Pwyllgor, ac rwy'n falch o gynnig diweddariad fel y manylir isod.

Cwestiwn Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig:

Pa gynnydd sydd wedi'i wneud wrth ddatblygu strategaeth genedlaethol ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant galwedigaethol?

Y cynnydd hyd yma (Ebrill 2025):

Mae gweithredu argymhellion yr Adolygiad o Gymwysterau Galwedigaethol a'r adroddiad Pontio i Fyd Gwaith yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol i Lywodraeth Cymru. Mae'n bwysig nodi bod llawer o gyd-ddibyniaeth yn gysylltiedig â chyflawni'r argymhellion a bod y berthynas strategol rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru, Cymwysterau Cymru a Medr yn bwysig iawn yn y cyd-destun hwn.

Ein nod wrth roi'r argymhellion ar waith yw cyd-fynd â'r agenda cyfranogi ehangach, gan gynnwys cwricwla 16-19 lleol a gweithio gyda Medr, Gyrfa Cymru, Llywodraeth y Deyrnas Unedig a rhanddeiliaid eraill ar flaenoriaethau o ran sgiliau. Gan weithio gyda'r partneriaid hyn, ein huchelgais yw creu llwybrau cliriach a mwy hygyrch i bob dysgwr a'u helpu i gael mynediad at arweiniad priodol a'r dysgu sy'n fwyaf addas iddynt.

Yn ystod 2025 byddwn yn canolbwyntio ar nodi'r camau gweithredu tymor byr, canolig a hir sydd eu hangen ar Lywodraeth Cymru a'n partneriaid er mwyn gallu cyflawni'r argymhellion ar y cyd – gyda rhai ohonynt angen tipyn o amser i baratoi ar eu cyfer, er enghraifft cyflwyno TAAU a fydd yn cael eu haddysgu am y tro cyntaf o fis Medi 2027 ymlaen.

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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.

Mae gwaith eisoes yn mynd rhagddo ar nifer o'r argymhellion sy'n trafod cymwysterau penodol yn yr Adolygiad o Gymwysterau Galwedigaethol, gan Cymwysterau Cymru a Medr mewn partneriaeth â Llywodraeth Cymru. Ymysg yr enghreifftiau mae ehangu aelodaeth grŵp rhanddeiliaid adolygiad sector (argymhelliad 6), craffu ar ganfyddiadau adolygiad sector ar lefel Bwrdd (argymhelliad 7), a datblygiad TAAU (argymhelliad 22). Mae Cymwysterau Cymru hefyd wedi cyhoeddi [adroddiad cynnydd](#) (Medi 2024) ar eu dull wedi'i dargedu o gynyddu nifer y cymwysterau cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael i ddysgwyr (argymhellion 19 a 20).

Ynghlwm ceir cynllun cyflawni drafft ar gyfer gweithredu'r argymhellion er mwyn i'r Pwyllgor gael syniad o gwmpas a graddfa'r rhaglen, yn ogystal â'r amserlen ar gyfer ei chyflawni. Fe welwch yn y cynllun bod amserlen ddangosol ar gyfer datblygu Strategaeth Addysg a Hyfforddiant Galwedigaethol. Mae fy swyddogion yn trafod gyda phartneriaid allweddol (gan gynnwys Medr, Colegau Cymru, Cymwysterau Cymru, a Phrifysgolion Cymru) i weld os oes modd cyd-ddatblygu'r strategaeth hon o fewn yr amserlen ddangosol. Bydd trafodaethau ehangach â rhanddeiliaid yn dilyn, a dylid nodi y gallai'r trafodaethau hyn effeithio ar yr amserlen ddangosol a ddisgrifir uchod. Byddaf yn rhoi gwybod i'r Pwyllgor os bydd unrhyw newidiadau.

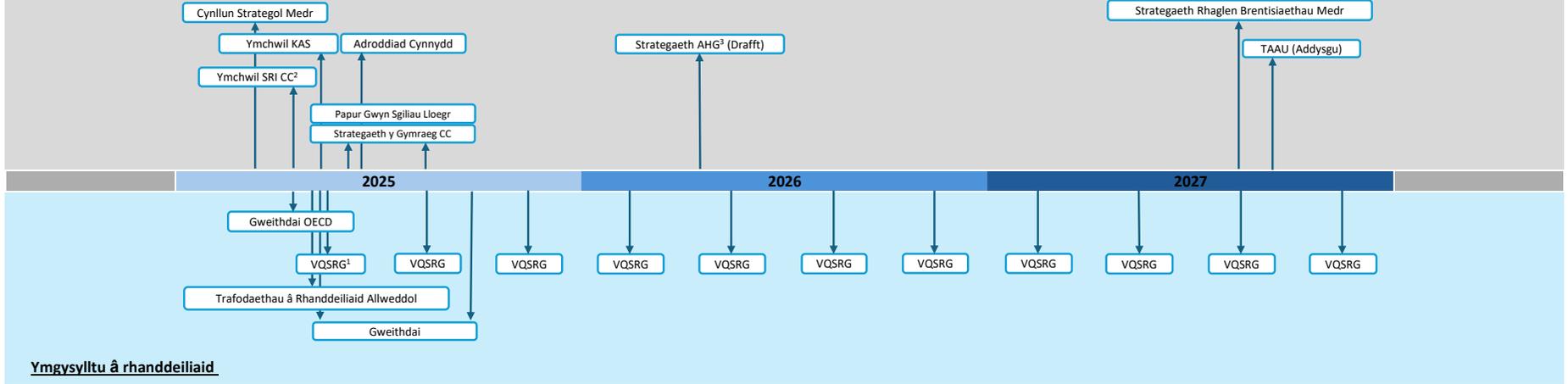
Fel y gwyddoch, mae llawer o'r argymhellion yn cysylltu â'r agenda sgiliau ehangach, a byddaf yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos gyda'm cyd-Weinidogion, ac ar draws Llywodraeth Cymru a'r DU i gysoni ein nodau polisi lle bo hynny'n briodol.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'V. Howells', with a long, sweeping underline stroke below it.

Vikki Howells AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg Bellach ac Uwch
Minister for Further and Higher Education

Ymchwil/Adroddiadau/Cyflawni



Ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid

¹ Grŵp Cyfeirio Rhanddeiliaid Cymwysterau Galwedigaethol

² CC - Cymwysterau Cymru

³ AHG - Addysg a Hyfforddiant Galwedigaethol

Eitem 3.10 ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES



Chair: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Darren Paffey MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).

3 April 2025

To:
Andrew RT Davies, Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

CC:
Wendy Larnar, Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Damian Walford-Davies, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Pat Younge, Chair of Council, Cardiff University
Vikki Howells, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Welsh Government
Baroness Smith of Malvern, Minister of State (Minister for Skills) and Government spokesperson for Equalities, Department for Education
Heledd Fychan, Chair, Wales International Cross-Party Group
Alex Barros-Curtis, MP for Cardiff West
Stephen Doughty, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth
Anna McMorris, MP for Cardiff North
Jo Stevens, MP for Cardiff East

Dear Mr Davies,

Request for economic impact assessment of proposed closures in languages and cultures at Cardiff University

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Languages is alarmed that Cardiff University is proposing to close degrees in languages and cultures at Cardiff University.

We wish to bring your attention to this matter (7 February letter attached).

What impact assessment has been made of the economic effects in Cardiff and across Wales of closing such significant provision of languages study?

For example, Cardiff University is the largest provider of modern languages degrees in Wales, accounting for over 60 per cent of all undergraduate intake. This would make access to languages within Wales difficult for many – forcing linguists to leave Wales for their degree; reducing the number of trainee languages teachers available to Welsh schools; and risking the loss of Wales-based graduates who decide not to return as a result.

Cardiff University is a regular recipient of funds from the Turing Scheme and the Welsh Government's Taith Scheme, both of which fund international mobilities and (in the case of Taith) reciprocal international exchanges, which brings overseas students and others to Wales.

We note for example that Taith has funded five 'planned projects'¹ at Cardiff University from 2022-2024, funding 1,311 individuals to a total of £2,829,518. How many of these mobilities would be affected by these closures and what would be the financial impact?

The closures could furthermore complicate regional inequalities in economic opportunity.

We would be grateful if you could provide reassurance that full economic impact assessment has been made of the proposals, across a full range of criteria, including those above, and provide details of any such impact assessment.

Best wishes,

Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Chair

Baroness Jean Coussins, Co-Chair

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages
APPG Secretariat: APPGML@ciol.org.uk

¹ <https://www.taith.wales/impact/planned-projects/>

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES

Chair: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Darren Paffey MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).



7 February 2025

To:

Wendy Lerner, Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Damian Walford-Davies, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Pat Younge, Chair of Council, Cardiff University

CC:

Vikki Howells, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Welsh Government
Baroness Smith of Malvern, Minister of State (Minister for Skills) and Government spokesperson for Equalities,
Department for Education

Dear Wendy, Damian and Pat,

Call to secure the future provision of languages and cultures at Cardiff University

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Languages urges Cardiff University to declare an immediate pause in the current proposals for the closure of degrees in languages and cultures at Cardiff University.

Proposals have caused great concern across the UK.

It is clear that the closure of honours degrees in languages, cultures and societies cannot be seen as a strictly internal matter, but will have strategic consequences affecting language provision and leadership in Wales and indeed the UK.

We urge decision makers to pause, take a wider view and commit to maintaining provision, working with staff and stakeholders to find ways forward.

The APPG is concerned that proposals will harm the reputation of Cardiff University and reflect badly on Wales and the UK more widely.

Colleagues at Cardiff University have led, and continue to lead on, nationally important work for languages, resulting in Cardiff University's enjoying a well-deserved reputation for leadership on language policy in Wales, influence on national policy, and pioneering student mentoring programmes which are influencing the whole country.

Cardiff University is the largest provider of modern languages degrees in Wales, accounting for over 60 per cent of all undergraduate intake. The impact of cuts would therefore be of national and strategic importance. It would make access to languages within Wales difficult for many – forcing linguists to leave Wales for their degree; and reduce the number of trainee languages teachers available to Welsh schools.

We note that the proposed cuts were raised in the Senedd as a matter of national urgency on February 5th, and urge all relevant parties to respond and find solutions.

It is short-sighted to lose linguistic and cultural expertise as the country's future requirements for diplomacy, security, diversified trade and exports will become more complex.

Post-Brexit, as the UK navigates new relationships and trade with the European Union and the rest of the world, including international university partnerships and preparing young people for the agile, skilled careers of the future, we will need universities to lead in providing the necessary skills and opportunities.

We urge Cardiff University to commit to be part of that future.

Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Chair

Baroness Jean Coussins
Co-Chair

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages
APPG Secretariat: APPGML@ciol.org.uk



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/ RE/PO/160/2025

Mike Hedges AS
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
CF99 1SN
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

09 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Mike,

Yn unol â'r cytundeb cysylltiadau rhyngsefydliadol, rwy'n ysgrifennu atoch i roi gwybod ichi y cafodd ail gyfarfod y Grŵp Rhyngweinidogol ar Gyfiawnder ei gynnal ar 7 Mai 2025.

Dyma fydd cyfarfod cyntaf yr IMG ers cyhoeddi'r Adolygiad o Gysylltiadau Rhynglywodraethol ym mis Ionawr 2022 a bydd yn cael ei gadeirio gan Weinidog Gwladol Llywodraeth y DU dros y Diwydiannau Creadigol, y Celfyddydau a Thwristiaeth, Chris Bryant AS. Byddaf yn cynrychioli Llywodraeth Cymru yn y cyfarfod rhithwir hwn.

Rwy'n rhagweld y bydd y cyfarfod yn rhoi cyfle i drafod cynllun Llywodraeth y DU i gynyddu twristiaeth ryngwladol, a diweddariadau gan bob un o'r pedair llywodraeth mewn perthynas â gweithgarwch a materion yn eu priod feysydd.

Rwyf hefyd wedi copïo'r llythyr hwn at y Pwyllgor Cyllid, Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig, a'r Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol.

Yn gywir,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

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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.

Y Gwir Anrh. Steve Reed OBE AS

Yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a
Materion Gwledig
Adran yr Amgylchedd, Bwyd a Materion Gwledig

10 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Ysgrifennydd Gwladol,

Attachés bwyd-amaeth a diod y DU

Fel rhan o'i gylch gwaith, mae gan Bwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig ddiddordeb mawr mewn gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo ac yn effeithio ar sectorau amaethyddol a bwyd Cymru. Gyda hyn mewn golwg, mae'r Pwyllgor yn awyddus i ddeall y gwaith a wneir gan attachés bwyd-amaeth a diod Llywodraeth y DU sy'n gweithio yn Llysgenadaethau'r DU, a'r modd y maent yn cefnogi sector bwyd-amaeth Cymru.

Rydym ar ddeall mai rôl yr attachés – yn rhannol – yw nodi marchnadoedd rhyngwladol sy'n dod i'r amlwg, a chael mynediad at y galw ledled y byd am nwyddau gan ffermwyr a chynhyrchwyr y DU. A fyddech cystal â rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am eu gwaith mewn perthynas â Chymru, gan gynnwys gwybodaeth am y modd y mae amaethyddiaeth a chynnyrch Cymru yn cael eu hyrwyddo, os gellir sôn am unrhyw gamau neu fentrau penodol? At hynny, byddai gennym ddiddordeb mewn clywed am y modd y mae'r attachés yn gweithio gyda swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru mewn gwledydd lle maent wedi'u cydleoli.

Rwy'n gwerthfawrogi eich sylw at y mater hwn, ac yn edrych ymlaen at eich ymateb.

Cofion cynnes,

Andrew RT Davies

Andrew RT Davies AS

Cadeirydd: Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg



Andrew RT Davies MS,
Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

11 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Andrew,

Isod mae gwybodaeth ychwanegol am yr hyn sydd wedi'i wneud dros y tair i bedair blynedd diwethaf o ran y cynnydd a wnaed ar gludo nwyddau a logisteg y gofynnwyd amdano yn dilyn Pwyllgor ETRA ar 06 Mawrth.

Mae pandemig COVID, chwyddiant cynyddol a chostau ynni, tanwydd a llafur wedi tynnu sylw mwy nag erioed at y rôl y mae cludo nwyddau a'r diwydiant logisteg yn ei chwarae wrth gefnogi economi Cymru ac ym mywyddau bob dydd pobl. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud camau cadarnhaol wrth ganolbwyntio'n fwy strategol ar nwyddau a logisteg o fewn y tymor llywodraeth hwn.

Rhoddodd Comisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru sicrwydd bod cludo nwyddau yn ganolog i'r gwaith hwn, a gwnaethon nhw archwilio'r data ar darddiad a chyrchfan nwyddau i ddeall patrymau cludo yn y rhanbarth. Mae'r adroddiad yn gwneud argymhellion clir ynghylch nwyddau a logisteg.

Ar ôl i'r Panel Adolygu Ffyrdd gyhoeddi 'Dyfodol Buddsoddiad Ffyrdd yng Nghymru ar 14 Chwefror 2023, cafodd cylch gwaith Comisiwn Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Cymru ei estyn i ystyried sut y gellid gwneud y cysylltiadau i Ynys Môn ac oddi yno'n fwy gwydn. Gwnaed ystyriaethau yng nghyd-destun Pont Menai a ddechreuwyd yn 2023, a digwyddiadau rheolaidd a thywydd gwael sy'n effeithio ar groesi'r bont.

Ym mis Gorffennaf 2021 caeodd Road King Truckstop yng Nghaergybi (a oedd yn cael ei weithredu gan drydydd parti) a gwerthwyd y tir i CThEF i fod yn gartref i'w Cyfleuster Ffiniau Mewndirol. Porthladd Caergybi yw'r ail porthladd fferïau roll on / roll off mwyaf yn y DU ac mae'n hwyluso symud niferoedd uchel o HGVau bob dydd. O ganlyniad, roedd angen cyfleuster parcio o hyd, ac agorodd Llywodraeth Cymru gyfleuster parcio HGVau dros dro heb ragfarn. Ers agor mae'r cyfleuster wedi cael ei ddefnyddio'n helaeth ac mae'n llawn y rhan fwyaf o'r nosweithiau. Mae'r cyfleuster hwn yn ardal ddiogel sy'n lleihau lladrata yn y rhanbarth, mae hefyd gyfleusterau sylfaenol ar gael (toiled a chawodydd).

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Gwnaethon ni gwblhau'r gwelliannau gwerth £30 miliwn ar yr A55 Aber i Dai'r Meibion ym mis Ebrill 2023. Roedd y gwaith hwn yn gwella diogelwch a'r gallu i wrthsefyll llifogydd ar hyd darn 1.2km o'r A55. Fe wnaethon ni hefyd gwblhau Pont Newydd Dyfi gwerth £46 miliwn ar yr A487 ym mis Chwefror 2024 – a oedd hefyd yn gwella diogelwch a'r gallu i wrthsefyll llifogydd. Mae'r ddau gynllun yn gwella dibynadwyedd teithiau ar gyfer cludo nwyddau ar hyd y llwybrau allweddol hyn o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin yng ngogledd Cymru ac o'r gogledd i'r de yng nghanolbarth Cymru.

Yn ne-orllewin Cymru byddwn yn agor gwelliannau gwerth £60 miliwn ar yr A40 rhwng Llanddewi Felffre a Chroes Redstone ddechrau mis Mai a fydd yn gwella diogelwch, amserau teithio a mynediad i Ardal Fenter Dyfrffordd y Ddau Gleddau, porthladdoedd yn Abergwaun, Aberdaugleddau a Doc Penfro, a thref sirol Hwlfordd.

Rydyn ni hefyd yn y camau olaf o gwblhau'r gwaith i uwchraddio 28 milltir o Ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd (yr A465) sydd wedi'i gynllunio i ddod â ffyniant i un o ardaloedd mwyaf difreintiedig y DU. Disgwylir i'r rhan olaf gwerth £590 miliwn o Ddowlais i Hirwaun agor yr haf hwn, a bydd yn ei gwneud yn haws i bobl leol a busnesau symud o gwmpas a chreu llwybr arall cadarn rhwng canolbarth Lloegr a de-orllewin Cymru, gan leihau'r pwysau ar yr M4 yng Nghasnewydd, sy'n aml yn gweld tagfeydd.

Nid symud pobl a nwyddau o gwmpas yw unig bwrpas yr uwchraddio, ond mae hefyd yn ymwneud â chreu swyddi, ffyniant, cyfleoedd a manteision ar gyfer cymunedau, a'u cysylltu'n well, ar draws y rhanbarth, gan gefnogi mewnfuddsoddiadau i ardaloedd fel Ardal Fenter Dyfrffordd y Ddau Gleddau. Rydyn ni'n parhau i wella gwytnwch y rhwydwaith ffyrdd strategol gan gynnwys disodli Pont Afon Dyfrdwy yng Ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru a datblygu opsiynau i wella gwytnwch y pontydd ar draws Afon Menai yng Ngogledd Orllewin Cymru.

Rydyn ni hefyd wedi datblygu rhaglen Adnewyddu Asedau Mawr i fynd i'r afael â strwythurau allweddol sydd angen atgyweiriadau sylweddol neu eu disodli – bydd hyn yn sicrhau bod y rhwydwaith ffyrdd strategol yn parhau i fod yn wydn ac ar agor ar gyfer symud nwyddau a gwasanaethau. Mae ymgynghoriadau bellach yn cael eu cynnal ynghylch Cynlluniau Trafnidiaeth Rhanbarthol a bydd cludo nwyddau a logisteg yn chwarae rhan amlwg ynddyn nhw.

Mae swyddogion polisi yn cwrdd â'r diwydiant yn rheolaidd drwy Logistics UK a'r Gymdeithas Cludo Ffyrdd. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys digwyddiadau bord gron gydag Ysgrifenyddion y Cabinet a derbyniadau ffurfiol yn y Senedd. Rydyn ni hefyd yn sicrhau ein bod yn ymwybodol o eraill sy'n cynrychioli'r diwydiant ac sy'n cyhoeddi erthyglau – fel y Sefydliad Siartredig Logisteg a Thrafnidiaeth. Mae ymrwymiad o fewn Llwybr Newydd i ddatblygu cynllun cludo nwyddau a logisteg, ac rydyn ni'n edrych ar ba gamau gweithredu y gellir eu cymryd yn realistig erbyn diwedd y tymor llywodraeth hwn i baratoi llwybr i unrhyw lywodraeth newydd adnewyddu'r cynllun yn 2026, gyda phum mlynedd arall o amcanion.

Cafodd Partneriaeth Zemo ei chomisiynu gan Lywodraeth Cymru i asesu'r opsiynau polisi i ddatgarboneiddio'r sector cerbydau masnachol yng Nghymru gan ddefnyddio'r prif lwybrau technoleg. Lanswyd yr adroddiad ar 21 Mawrth. Y prif lwybr hirdymor i ddatgarboneiddio'r sector cerbydau masnachol fydd trydaneiddio. Fodd bynnag, bydd hyn yn cymryd amser ac mae mathau o weithrediadau efallai na fydd trydaneiddio yn opsiwn hyfyw ar eu cyfer ar hyn o bryd. Felly, er mwyn datgarboneiddio cerbydau masnachol yng Nghymru cymaint ag y bo modd, rhaid mabwysiadu pob llwybr ar yr un pryd. Bydd Llywodraeth Cymru nawr yn ystyried yr adroddiad ac yn ymateb iddo.

Nod Rhaglen ReAct+ Llywodraeth Cymru yw helpu pobl sydd wedi colli eu swyddi i ennill y sgiliau y mae cyflogwyr yn chwilio amdany'n nhw. Gall y rhaglen ddarparu grant hyfforddiant galwedigaethol o hyd at £1500, a gall gefnogi pobl i ennill trwyddedau LGV, cymhwyster gyrrwr CPC a chymwysterau ategol fel HIAB ac ADR. Gall y rhaglen hefyd ariannu hyfforddiant gloywi i yrwyr lorïau sy'n dymuno ailymuno â'r sector. Gall ReAct+ hefyd gefnogi cyn droseddwyr neu droseddwyr sy'n bwrw dedfrydau cymunedol, ac rydyn ni'n cynllunio rhaglenni peilot i helpu carcharorion sydd ar fin cael eu rhyddhau i gwblhau'r prawf theori LGV fel y gallan nhw ymgymryd â'r hyfforddiant ymarferol a'r prawf yn fuan ar ôl iddyn nhw gael eu rhyddhau o'r carchar. Mae Rhaglen ReAct+ a'i rhagflaenwyr wedi ariannu ymhell dros 1,000 o bobl i gael trwyddedau HGV/LGV.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddrafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales



22 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Gadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Isod mae esboniad manwl o'r cyfundrefnau rheoleiddio ar gyfer porthladdoedd sydd ar waith y gofynnwyd amdano yn dilyn Pwyllgor Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Materion Gwledig ar 06 Fawrth, gan gynnwys amlinelliad o sut mae'r gwahanol gyfundrefnau rheoleiddio yn Llywodraeth y DU yn gweithredu.

Wedi'u cadw yn ôl ar gyfer Llywodraeth y DU

Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r cyfundrefnau rheoleiddio ar gyfer Porthladdoedd wedi'u cadw yn ôl ar gyfer Llywodraeth y DU. O dan Ddeddf Iechyd a Diogelwch yn y Gwaith etc 1974 (Deddf HSW), rhaid i gyflogwyr, pobl sy'n rheoli safleoedd, pobl hunangyflogedig a phobl cyflogedig sicrhau iechyd a diogelwch eraill a'u hunain.

Mae rheoliadau hefyd sy'n gymwys i bob diwydiant oherwydd bydd llawer o'r peryglon yr un peth. Ond mae gan rai diwydiannau ddarnau penodol o ddeddfwriaeth. Yn y diwydiant porthladdoedd, mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- Rheoliadau Dociau 1988; 2 o 11 tudalen Canllaw cyflym Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch i iechyd a diogelwch mewn porthladdoedd
- Rheoliadau Sylweddau Peryglus mewn Ardaloedd Harbwr 1987; a
- Rheoliadau Llwytho a Dadlwytho Cychod Pysgota 1988.

Mae'r Cod Ymarfer Cymeradwy ar Ddiogelwch mewn Dociau (COP25) yn cwmpasu Rheoliadau Dociau 1988 ond mae llawer o'r deunydd hwnnw wedi'i ddiddymu a'i ddisodli gan ddeddfwriaeth fwy diweddar.

Nid yw Deddf HSW a rheoliadau cysylltiedig yn gymwys i forwyr sy'n gweithio ar fwrdd llong o dan reolaeth meistr y llong. Mae Rheoliadau Iechyd a Diogelwch Llongau Masnach

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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.

Tudalen y pecyn 94
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cymharol yn gymwys i griw llongau ac maent yn cael eu gorfodi gan Asiantaeth y Môr a Gwylwyr y Glannau (MCA).

Mae rheoliadau hefyd sy'n gymwys i bob diwydiant oherwydd bydd llawer o'r peryglon yr un peth waeth beth fo'r diwydiant dan sylw. Ond mae gan rai diwydiannau ddarnau penodol o ddeddfwriaeth. Yn y diwydiant porthladdoedd, mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- [Dyletswyddau o dan Reoliadau Nwyddau Peryglus mewn Ardaloedd Harbwr 2016 \(DGHAR\)](#)
- [Rheoliadau Llwytho a Dadlwytho Cychod Pysgota 1988.](#)

Roedd Rheoliadau Dociau 1988 mewn grym tan 6 Ebrill 2014. Cafodd yr hen ACOP 'Diogelwch mewn Dociau' (COP25) ei ddisodli gan [ACOP Diogelwch mewn Dociau \(L148\)](#) newydd ar yr un pryd.

Sefydliad Llywodraeth y DU yw'r Gangen Ymchwilio i Ddamweiniau Morol (MAIB), yn benodol, uned annibynnol yn yr Adran Drafnidiaeth. Maent yn gyfrifol am:

- gynnal ymchwiliadau i bennu achosion damweiniau ar y môr
- cyhoeddi adroddiadau sy'n cynnwys argymhellion MAIB ar wella diogelwch ar y môr a'r camau rydyn ni wedi'u cymryd
- cynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o sut mae damweiniau morol yn digwydd
- gwella cydweithrediad cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol mewn ymchwiliadau i ddamweiniau morol
- Mae Cymdeithas Porthladdoedd Prydain wedi mapio rhai o'r darnau pwysicaf o ddeddfwriaeth a rheoleiddio sy'n effeithio ar borthladdoedd, ond mae hyn yn pwysleisio natur gymhleth rheoliadau y mae'r rhai sy'n gweithredu porthladdoedd yn eu hwynebu. [Mapio Rheoleiddio Porthladdoedd - Cymdeithas Porthladdoedd Prydain.](#)

Awdurdodau Iechyd Porthladdoedd

Mae Awdurdodau Iechyd Porthladdoedd (PHA) wedi'u ffurfio gyda'r prif nod o atal clefydau epidemig a heintus peryglus rhag dod i'r wlad a sicrhau iachusrwydd bwyd wedi'i fewnforio.

Mae PHA yn awdurdod lleol a grëwyd yn benodol ar gyfer porthladd awyr neu fôr, sy'n torri ar draws ffiniau presennol cyngor, sydd â phwrpas cyffredin wrth ddelio â phorthladd – hy. dyletswyddau o dan y Rheoliadau Iechyd Rhyngwladol. Bydd y PHA yn amsugno swyddogaethau statudol dirprwyedig gan bob Awdurdod Lleol y mae'n eu ymestyn ar eu traws mewn perthynas â'r gweithgareddau hyn.

Mewn llawer o ardaloedd ledled Cymru, mae'r Awdurdod Lleol yn cyflawni swyddogaethau ffiniau iechyd porthladdoedd heb sefydlu PHA. Mae hyn yn gyffredin yn yr Alban. Mae'n werth nodi hefyd nad yw Ynys Môn wedi sefydlu PHA.

Cymdeithas Awdurdodau Iechyd Porthladdoedd yw'r unig sefydliad ledled y DU sy'n cynrychioli buddiannau Awdurdodau Lleol ac Awdurdodau Iechyd Porthladdoedd sydd â chyfrifoldebau am reolaethau iechyd porthladdoedd a meysydd awyr.

Mae'n gwmni wedi'i gyfansoddi'n ffurfiol sy'n cynrychioli bron i holl gyflogwyr timau iechyd porthladdoedd. Mae'n eistedd y tu allan i Gymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru ond mae'n cysylltu â'r llywodraeth ganolog ar ran porthladdoedd mynediad.

Gellir dod o hyd i ragor o fanylion am eu rolau yma; [Cymdeithas Awdurdodau Iechyd Porthladdoedd](#)

Y Swyddfa Gartref / Llu'r Ffiniau

Llu'r Ffiniau yw'r rhan o'r Swyddfa Gartref sy'n gyfrifol am ddiogelu ffin y DU 24 awr y dydd, 365 diwrnod y flwyddyn trwy orfodi rheoliadau mewnfudo a thollau.

[Llu'r Ffiniau - GOV.UK](#)

Safleoedd Rheolaethau'r Ffin

Cyhoeddwyd prosesau newydd ar gyfer rheolaethau diogelwch (sy'n gymwys i bob math o fewnforion), a rheolaethau iechydol a ffytoiechydol (sy'n gymwys i fewnforio anifeiliaid byw, cynhyrchion anifeiliaid, planhigion a chynhyrchion planhigion a bwyd a bwyd anifeiliaid risg uchel nad ydynt yn dod o anifeiliaid) ym Model Gweithredu Targed y Ffin Llywodraeth y DU ym mis Awst 2023.

Mae'r newidiadau hyn bellach yn cael eu cyflwyno'n raddol.

Ar 31 Ionawr 2024 cyflwynwyd gofyniad i rag-hysbysu cyn mewnforio ar gyfer Cynhyrchion sy'n Dod o Anifeiliaid (POAO), ynghyd â Thystysgrifau Iechyd Allforio ar gyfer mewnforio cynhyrchion anifeiliaid risg canolig, planhigion, cynhyrchion planhigion a bwyd a bwyd anifeiliaid risg uchel nad ydynt yn dod o anifeiliaid o'r UE, ac eithrio Nwyddau Cymwys i Ogledd Iwerddon.

Mae rhagor o fanylion ar gael yma:

[Rheolaethau ffiniau a seilwaith ar ôl gadael yr UE | LLYWODRAETH. CYMRU](#)

Y Bil Hawliau Cyflogaeth / Deddf Cyflogau Morwyr 2023

Mae'r Bil Hawliau Cyflogaeth yn diwygio Deddf Cyflogau Morwyr 2023 i roi pŵer i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol wneud rheoliadau sy'n pennu cyflogau ac amodau gwaith morwyr sy'n gweithio ar longau sy'n darparu gwasanaethau a gwmpesir gan y Ddeddf honno ar hyn o bryd. Mae'r amodau hynny yn orfodadwy yn yr un modd â darpariaethau presennol y Ddeddf honno.

Wedi eu datganoli

Gorchmynion Diwygio Harbyrau (HRO)

Mae Deddf Harbyrau 1964 ("HA 1964") yn rhoi pwerau i Weinidogion Cymru ymestyn a/neu ddiwygio pwerau a dyletswyddau SHA, cau harbwr neu greu harbwr newydd ynghyd â'r SHA a fydd yn cymryd cyfrifoldeb amdano.

Mae'r pwerau hyn yn cael eu harfer trwy orchmynion harbwr ("HO"), math o is-ddeddfwriaeth a all gymryd gwahanol ffurfiau. Gellir gwneud gorchmynion harbwr ar gais gan SHA, deisebydd sy'n ceisio gorchmyn grymuso neu mewn rhai achosion, y Gweinidog priodol sy'n gweithredu ar eu menter eu hunain.

Yn gyffredinol, gellir categorio gorchmynion harbwr yn ddau fath, gorchmynion 'gwaith' yw'r rhai sy'n ceisio adeiladu neu ddatblygu rhan o harbwr, neu harbwr yn ei gyfanrwydd.

Mae ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cynnwys prosiectau o'r fath ar gyfer gorchmynion 'nad ydynt yn ymwneud â gwaith'. Mae'r broses ymgeisio ar gyfer y ddau fath yn amrywio.

Tollau Harbwr

Mae Deddf Cymru 2017 yn darparu mai Gweinidogion Cymru yw'r awdurdod rheoli ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o borthladdoedd a harbyrau yng Nghymru (yr eithriad yw porthladdoedd ymddiriedolaeth a gedwir yn ôl).

O dan Ddeddf Harbyrau 1964 ("HA 1964"), mae gan awdurdodau harbwr statudol ("SHA"), y pŵer i osod tollau harbwr ar ddefnyddwyr yr harbwr.

Yn y ddeddf, mae'r term "*harbour dues*" yn cwmpasu "*ship, passenger and goods dues*". Ffioedd yw'r tollau harbwr hyn, y mae adran 57 o Orchymyn Harbyrau 1964 yn eu diffinio fel rhai sy'n cynnwys prisiau, cyfraddau, a thollau o bob disgrifiad.

Mae'r costau hynny yn gysylltiedig â:

- llongau sy'n mynd i mewn i'r harbwr, yn ei ddefnyddio neu'n ei adael.
- teithwyr sy'n gadael neu'n cyrraedd yn yr harbwr; a
- nwyddau.

ond nid costau a godir am ddefnyddio cyfleusterau ategol yn yr harbwr neu'r porthladd dan sylw a ddarperir ar gyfer teithwyr neu nwyddau.

Hawl i wrthwynebu

Mae adran 31 (1) yn darparu hawl i wrthwynebu "*ship, passenger and goods dues*". Mae adran 31 (2)(a) yn caniatáu i berson neu gorff cynrychioliadol sydd â buddiant sylweddol, wrthwynebu'r ffioedd trwy gyflwyno'r gwrthwynebiad yn ysgrifenedig i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol.

Gellir gwneud gwrthwynebiad ysgrifenedig i ffioedd ar amrywiol seiliau.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru; [Porthladdoedd a harbyrau | Is-bwnc | LLYWODRAETH. CYMRU](#)

Cynllunio a Chydsynio

Ar hyn o bryd mae gan Gymru dair haen o brosesau cydsynio ar gyfer y rhan fwyaf o brosiectau seilwaith (mae rhai eithriadau):

Awdurdodau cynllunio lleol sydd yn penderfynu ar brosiectau llai o faint;

Mae prosiectau mwy, lle mae cydsyniad wedi ei ddatganoli, yn cael eu penderfynu gan Lywodraeth Cymru drwy'r broses Datblygiadau o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol (DNS); ac

Mae prosiectau mwy, lle nad yw cydsyniad wedi ei ddatganoli, yn cael eu penderfynu gan Lywodraeth y DU trwy'r broses Prosiectau Seilwaith o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol (NSIP).

Bydd Deddf Seilwaith (Cymru) yn sefydlu proses newydd i roi cydsyniad i brosiectau seilwaith mawr yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys prosiectau ynni, gwastraff, dŵr a thrafnidiaeth mawr.

Bydd y bil hwn yn symleiddio'r broses o wneud penderfyniadau, gan helpu i gefnogi buddsoddiad a datblygu porthladdoedd, i sicrhau bod ein porthladdoedd yn barod i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd fel prosiectau gwynt ar y môr.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am y cyllid ar gael yma.

[Adeiladu a chynllunio | Pwnc | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Trwyddedau Morol

Mae angen trwydded forol ar lawer o weithgareddau sy'n digwydd yn y môr ac o amgylch y môr.

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru sy'n gyfrifol am drwyddedu morol yn nyfroedd Cymru. I weld rhagor o wybodaeth gefndirol, ewch i;

[Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Trwyddedu morol](#)

Yr eiddoch yn gywir



Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddrafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDC/0188/25

Mike Hedges AS
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1SN

22 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Mike,

Ysgrifennaf atoch yn unol â'r cytundeb ar gysylltiadau rhyngsefydliadol, ac ymhellach at fy llythyr dyddiedig 26 Mawrth, i dynnu eich sylw at [Ddatganiad Ysgrifenedig Gweinidogol](#) sy'n crynhoi'r trafodaethau yn y cyfarfod diweddaraf o'r Pwyllgor Sefydlog Rhyngweinidogol.

Rwyf hefyd yn anfon copi o'r llythyr hwn at Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgor Cyllid, Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig, y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol a'r Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol.

Yn gywir,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@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.

Tudalen y pecyn 101

Eitem 6

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Eitem 7

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a
Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai
Cadeirydd Fforwm y Cadeiryddion

1 Ebrill 2025

Annwyl Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau,

Craffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft 2025-26: Tystiolaeth a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru

Yn ein hadroddiad ynghylch ein gwaith craffu ar Gyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2025-26, gwnaethom nifer o argymhellion sy'n ymwneud â gwella'r modd y caiff y gyllideb ei chyflwyno. Gwnaethom hefyd gytuno i ymgynghori â'r Pwyllgorau ynghylch y ddogfennaeth a ddarparwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ochr yn ochr â'i chynigion ar gyfer y Gyllideb Ddrafft, gan ddod i'r casgliad a ganlyn:

*"Casgliad 1. Bydd y Pwyllgor yn ymgynghori â phwyllgorau'r Senedd sy'n ymwneud â
chraffu ar y gyllideb cyn Adolygiad o Wariant Cymru a chylch cyllideb 2026-27
i archwilio ffyrdd o fanteisio i'r eithaf ar graffu ar y gyllideb yn y Senedd, er mwyn
lliniaru effaith cyfnod craffu wedi'i gwtogi."*

O ganlyniad, wrth fyfyrto ar y profiad o graffu ar y gyllideb eleni, ac wrth geisio gwella'r ddogfennaeth gyllidebol a gaiff ei darparu gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer Cyllideb Ddrafft 2026-27 a thu hwnt, byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi cael barn eich pwyllgor ar y cwestiynau a ganlyn:

- Pa welliannau yr hoffech eu gweld o ran y ddogfennaeth sy'n cyd-fynd â Chyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru a thystiolaeth ysgrifenedig ddilynol gan y Gweinidog? Yn eich ymateb, dylech gyfeirio at amseroldeb, ansawdd a defnyddioldeb unrhyw ddogfennaeth a/neu dystiolaeth sydd wedi dod i law.
- Bydd Adolygiad o Wariant y DU, a gaiff ei gyhoeddi ar 11 Mehefin 2025, yn darparu cyllid dangosol ar gyfer Llywodraeth Cymru yn y blynyddoedd i ddod. O ystyried hynny, a oes gennych unrhyw farn ar y wybodaeth y byddai ei hangen arnoch o ran yr Adolygiad o Wariant ar gyfer Cymru a fydd yn dilyn, naill ai i ategu dogfennaeth y gyllideb neu fel ymarfer ar wahân?

Byddem yn ddiolchgar pe gallech ymateb erbyn **dydd Gwener 23 Mai 2025**. Yna, bydd eich sylwadau'n cael eu coladu a'u rhoi i Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg, i'w hystyried cyn y ddadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar Flaenoriaethau'r Gyllideb ar gyfer 2026-27, a gaiff ei harwain gan y Pwyllgor Cyllid ac a gaiff ei chynnal cyn toriad yr haf.

Yn gywir,



Peredur Owen Griffiths AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

