

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

23 October 2020

Dear Lesley

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

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2020, which we considered at our meeting on 28 September 2020.

We do not have any substantive comments on the proposals as these are a matter of policy.

However, any proposals that result in a simplification of existing legislation are generally welcome, particularly if the effect is to make that legislation more accessible to stakeholders. We will of course scrutinise in due course the subordinate legislation that comes forward as a consequence of this consultation exercise.

We note that the subordinate legislation will need to be made by the Welsh Ministers before 31 December 2020 using powers contained in the UK Agriculture Bill, which has yet to receive Royal Assent.

We have noted comments from the [NFU Cymru](#) in August expressing concerns that it will be many months before clarification and confirmation is given about the rules that will apply in 2021 and that as a result farmers will have to continue to plan for all eventualities.

We recognise that the powers being used in the UK Bill are only temporary. However, the tight timetables that have arisen and the impact on those that will be affected by the legislation highlight why we consider (as set out in our reports on relevant Legislative



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Consent Memoranda about the UK Agriculture Bill) that a Welsh Agriculture Bill would have been a better option to pursue from the outset, rather than relying on the UK Government to legislate on our behalf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

