

## **Priorities for the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee for the Sixth Senedd (2021-2026)**

1. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Minister's and Deputy Minister's priorities for the next 12-18 months, as set out in their letter of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021. My particular interest is in the retrofit of homes. By retrofit I mean a process of making changes to buildings and the technical systems in buildings so that energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, in line with energy and climate and policy goals.

2. *Net Zero*. I am disappointed that this section of the letter fails to emphasise the critical role of buildings, and homes in particular, in achieving net zero. This is an area that I would ask the Committee to focus on.

3. *Housing*. I congratulate Welsh Government on its Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP). Unfortunately this section of the letter says only this about privately-owned homes, which form the majority of Welsh homes and are responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions from Welsh homes:

“The knowledge, skills and capacity gained [from ORP] will then be deployed in the private rented and owner occupier sectors.”

4. *Housing*. I would ask the Committee to focus on the actions Welsh Government (and others) should take to create the conditions in which owner-occupiers and private landlords choose to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and find it easy to do so well. A focus solely on the actions of owner-occupiers, landlords and tenants neglects the important ways in which the behaviours of these groups are influenced by the actions of other actors in the energy system, such as banks, building societies, builders and builders' merchants, local authority planning and building control, and many others. To help design policies to bring about widespread retrofit it is necessary to adopt a systems approach that recognises the influences that the many different actors have on each other.

5. *Housing*. The Committee will be aware of the recent report by the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner and the New Economics Foundation about financing retrofit in Wales. This report contains specific recommendations about the role of the Development Bank and about the

creation of a Welsh energy services company to provide finance for retrofit. I would ask the Committee to focus on the financing of residential retrofit for all sectors (owner-occupied, private rented and socially owned).