

# IEPAW

## Interim Environmental Protection Assessor Wales

Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
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9 November 2022

Dear Llyr,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September 2022 enclosing a copy of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee's report on the operation of the interim environmental protection measures.

I would like to thank the Committee for the work they have undertaken in this area and for inviting me to participate in the evidence session on 30 June 2022. I believe that the Committee's recommendations provide an important package of improvements to ensure that the IEPAW can deliver its functions effectively until a permanent environmental oversight body is in place.

Although the recommendations in the report are primarily aimed at the Welsh Government, there are two recommendations that are specifically directed towards me. These relate to raising public awareness of the IEPAW service and its transparency (recommendations 2 and 3 respectively). I fully agree with the Committee's helpful recommendations in these areas and will outline below the actions that I intend to take in response to them.

With regards to raising public awareness, I am working with my Secretariat to determine what can be done to increase the visibility of the IEPAW service. In these discussions whereby we hope to utilise Welsh Government resources, we are exploring the options of making better use of social media channels, as well as working towards ensuring that the IEPAW pages which are hosted on the Welsh Government

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website are easier for the public to access. I will endeavour to update the Committee on this work as soon as is practicable.

In line with the Committee's recommendation that the IEPAW should engage with pro bono advice services in Wales, we have reached out to the following organisations to make them aware of the IEPAW's service with a view to developing new referral routes:

- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- The Law Society
- Legal News Wales
- JUSTICE
- ADVOCATE
- Wales and Chester Circuit
- North Wales Law Centre
- North and Mid Wales Law Clinic
- Law Works
- Access to Justice Foundation
- Speakeasy Law Centre Cardiff

Alongside this work, the Committee may also be interested to know that I have recently authored a pair of articles for publication in the United Kingdom Environmental Law Association's (UKELA) e-law newsletter and the Tenant Farmers' Association (TFA) Cymru's newsletters. The first of these provides an overview of the IEPAW's role, whereas the other provides an update on our recent work in relation to hedgerow protection and management.

In response to recommendation 3, I agree with the Committee that publishing details of the IEPAW's rolling programme of work on our webpages would be a valuable way of ensuring that stakeholders and the public are made aware of the ongoing work of the IEPAW. I intend to start publishing these updates on a quarterly basis, timing them to coincide with the IEPAW's regular stakeholder meetings. These updates will also be sent directly to anyone who has signed up to receive them via the IEPAW's cluster group.

With regards to the Committee's other recommendations, these have my full support. In particular, I support the Committee's recommendation for an urgent review to be

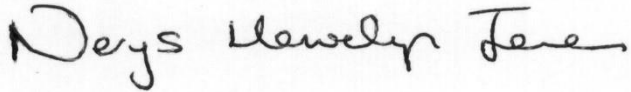
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conducted into the resourcing of the IEPAW service. I look forward to working with the Welsh Government over the coming weeks and months to ensure these recommendations are delivered in full.

As stated during the evidence session, my work as IEPAW to date has developed via an iterative process and approach and I am keen to ensure that the work the role is transparent and accessible to all who have an interest in environmental protection and have concerns that they want to raise for consideration.

Kindest regards,



**Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones**  
**The Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales**