

IEPAW

Interim Environmental Protection Assessor Wales

Llŷr Gruffydd MS
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Senedd Cymru
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30th October 2023

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you for your letter dated 21st September 2023 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 21st June 2023. 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 majority of the recommendations in the report are aimed at the Welsh Government, there is one recommendation that is specifically directed at me. This relates to the establishment of formal processes to monitor the impact of the IEPAW's recommendations on environmental outcomes, allowing the IEPAW to assess the impact of the role. I fully agree with the Committee's helpful recommendations in this area and will outline below the actions that I intend to take in response.

I have undertaken a review of current IEPAW processes and activities to determine the extent to which these might meet the requirements of the Committee's recommendations. As a result, I have identified the following actions that are currently undertaken which I believe contribute towards monitoring impact:

- 1) Delivery of an annual briefing to the CCEI and the opportunity for Committee members to directly question the Interim Assessor on her work and to highlight areas that require consideration.
- 2) Delivery of online Stakeholder briefings on a quarterly basis and the opportunity for the public to directly question the Interim Assessor on her work.

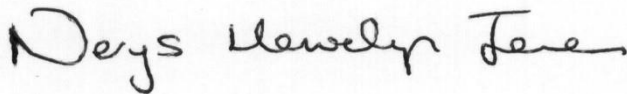
- 3) Publication of a quarterly newsletter detailing IEPAW activities.
- 4) A quarterly review is undertaken by the IEPAW of all submissions to the IEPAW since its establishment, identifying substantive changes affecting initial scoping of the submissions and re-consideration in line with the published prioritisation principles.
- 5) Ongoing reviews of Senedd activity relevant to IEPAW activities.

In light of the comments of the CCEI, I am also looking to introduce a more formal monitoring process, which is capable of being implemented in the short term, which will consider the impact of reports published by the IEPAW and their implementation. Furthermore, I will include in next Annual Report a specific section which reviews and considers impact.

With regards to the CCEI's other recommendations, these have my full support.

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 of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nerys Llewelyn Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones
Interim Environmental Protection Assessor for Wales