

# Committee update

## Autumn 2023

### Welcome to our fifth committee update

This is the fifth bulletin for the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. It provides an overview of the Committee's recent activities and planned work to help you stay up to date and engage with the Committee's work.

It has been produced by the Clerking team which supports the Committee. If you have any feedback, please let us know using the contact details below.

### Contact details

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## Committee update

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[Buffy Williams MS](#) has now joined the Committee. She has replaced Sarah Murphy MS.



## Current Work

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### Post-EU regional development funding

The Committee undertook an inquiry into [Post-EU regional development funding](#) during the Spring/Summer term and will publish the report of its inquiry on 12 September. The results of an engagement survey of those accessing funding will also be published on the website. The report will be debated later in the autumn term – we will publish responses to the report and details of the debate when available.

## City and Growth Deals

On 13 September the Committee will be updated on [City and Growth Deal](#) activity in each of the four economic regions of Wales:

Mid Wales Growth Deal  
Cardiff Capital Region City Deal  
Swansea Bay City Deal  
North Wales Growth Deal

## Trade and Ports

As a follow-up to Members' visit to the Port of Holyhead in June, the Committee will hold a session on Trade and Ports this term. The Committee will discuss the Border Target Operating Model and the Windsor Framework with the Minister for Economy and leading academics on 11 October.

## Cost of Living

The Committee's focus on skills will include following up its work on [Cost of Living](#) pressures and progress with the Young Persons Guarantee. On 28 September Members will hear from Careers Wales, training providers and the WLGA, following on from the [Cost of Living pressures and the Young Persons Guarantee session](#) held on 24 November 2022.

## Nuclear Power and the Welsh Economy

The Committee plans to undertake a one-day inquiry in October into the future of nuclear power and its impact on the economy, including modular nuclear power stations, GB energy and other developments.

## Research and Development

In November, the Committee plans to hold a one-day high level inquiry focusing on access to support and funding. Look out for updates on these inquiries on the Committee's home page.

## Recent Activities

### Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023

Following the completion of Stage 3 proceedings on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill on Tuesday 16 May, a motion to consider the Bill at Report Stage was agreed on Wednesday 24 May and report Stage commenced on Thursday 25 May.

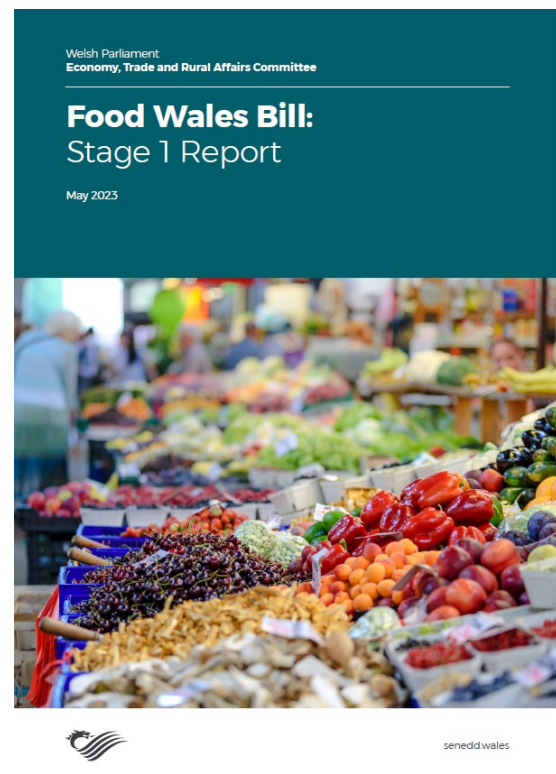
Report Stage proceedings took place in Plenary on Tuesday 20 June 2023 and all sections and schedules of the Bill were deemed agreed by a vote. Stage 4 took place in Plenary on 27 June 2023 and the Bill was passed.



Royal Assent was given on 17 August 2023 and The Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023 has become law in Wales.

### Food (Wales) Bill

The Committee published its Stage 1 report on 12 May 2023.



A debate on the general principles of the Bill took place in Plenary on 24 May 2023. The motion to agree the general principles was not agreed – this means the Bill was rejected by the Senedd and fell.

## Royal Welsh Show 2023



Committee Members visited the Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells on 24 July 2023.

The primary purpose was for Members to engage with Committee stakeholders on their strategic priorities for the second half of the Senedd term – September 2023 – March 2026.

It was also an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the Committee’s rural affairs work since 2021, including next steps after the passage of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, and the development of the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to raise pressing issues, and what they would like to see the Committee focusing on. Those Members met during their visit included:

Farmers’ Union of Wales (FUW)  
Confor  
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

ITV Cymru Wales  
National Farmers' Union Cymru (NFU)  
Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN)  
Wildlife Trust Wales  
RSPB  
Soil Association  
Woodland Trust  
Landworkers’ Alliance Cymru  
Wales Environment Link (WEL)

## Visit to Anglesey



The Committee visited Anglesey on Thursday 13 July to explore the development of the Border Control Post (BCP) in Holyhead as well as visiting the port itself, and hosting discussions on the Anglesey Freeport and the wider economy of the island.

Members visited the BCP site at Parc Cybi, touring the site and meeting officials involved in its development. Members then moved

onto the port itself where they discussed traffic and trade with Stena – the port operator. Lastly, the Committee went to Anglesey Business Centre for two informal meetings with key local stakeholders including Anglesey Council and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, to discuss the freeport and the island's wider economy.

## Manufacturing in Wales

The Committee undertook a one-day exploratory inquiry into [Manufacturing in Wales on 8 June 2023](#).

The Inquiry looked at the manufacturing sector in general, and in particular at Welsh Government activities since publishing its [manufacturing action plan](#) in February 2021.

The Committee then wrote to the Minister for Economy on [6 July 2023](#) and received a response on [10 August 2023](#).

## General Ministerial Scrutiny

The Committee continues to hold regular scrutiny sessions with the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, and the Minister for Economy.

The Committee last held a general scrutiny session with Ministers on

[Wednesday 21 June](#), with further sessions scheduled in December.

## Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Non-Domestic Rating Bill

On 11 April, the Welsh Government laid a [Legislative Consent Memorandum \(LCM\) on the Non-Domestic Rating Bill](#) before the Senedd. The [Business Committee](#) referred the LCM to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Local Government and Housing Committee, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Finance Committee with a [report](#) published by the deadline of 22 June.

## Forward Work Programme

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In June, the Committee agreed its [work programme](#) into Autumn 2023. The published work programme indicates the current intentions of the Committee at the time of publishing; however, it may change at any time to respond to external events.

The Committee will consider its outline work programme for Spring 2024 at its [13 September meeting](#). Once agreed the outline work programme will be available on the Committee's [website](#).

## Remit

The Committee was established on 23 June 2021, with a remit encompassing (but not restricted to): economic development, regeneration, skills, trade, research, and development (including technology and science), and rural affairs.

## Committee Members

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**Committee Chair:**  
**Paul Davies MS**

Welsh Conservatives



**Hefin David MS**

Welsh Labour



**Luke Fletcher MS**

Plaid Cymru



**Samuel Kurtz MS**

Welsh Conservatives



**Vikki Howells MS**

Welsh Labour



**Buffy Williams MS**

Welsh Labour