

Committee update

Summer 2022

Welcome to our third committee update

This is the third 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

You can email the Committee Clerking Team: SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

Phone us: 0300 200 6565

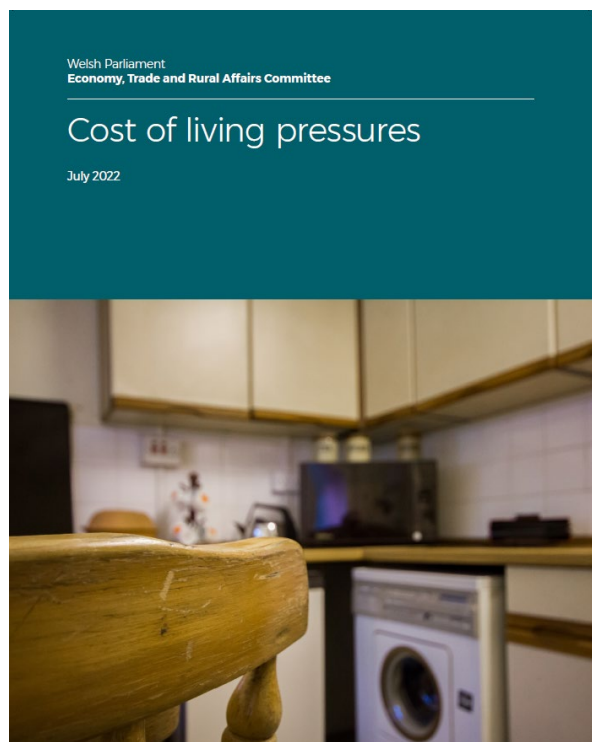
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Current Work

Cost of Living



The cost of living is high on the agenda for many Senedd Committees. On 28 July the Committee published its [report](#) on the impact of cost of living pressures on the Welsh workforce, businesses and rural communities. The outcomes of [engagement work](#) with people most affected was also published alongside the report. The Welsh Government is due to respond by 21 October, followed by a plenary debate.

Royal Welsh Show – Views on the Draft Sustainable Farming Scheme

Members were delighted to attend the [Royal Welsh Agricultural Show](#) on 21 July as it returned to the Builth

Wells showground for the first time since the pandemic. At an informal stakeholder event hosted by ITV Wales, Members discussed Welsh Government's [Outline Sustainable Farming Scheme](#).



Visit to Carmarthenshire

On 30 June Members stepped away from the Senedd for a day of fact-finding visits. They were pleased to be hosted by Coleg Sir Gâr's Gelli Aur Farm Campus where they saw farming technology being developed, Wrights Food Emporium, where they met local food producers, and Hywel Morgan of Esgairllaethdy farm. A summary [report](#) of the visits is available on our website.



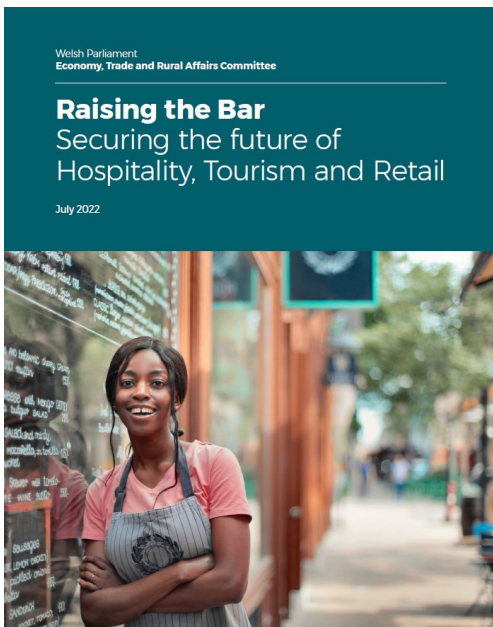
Trade Deals

The Welsh Government responded to the Committee's findings on the impact of the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 9 June. The Committee took evidence on the UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement from the farming unions and Ministers for Economy and Rural Affairs on 15 June and from trade experts on 13 July, and will write to the Welsh Government and the UK Parliamentary Committees responsible for scrutinising that FTA.

The Committee will also continue to monitor progress with other trade negotiations, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a free trade agreement between 11 countries.

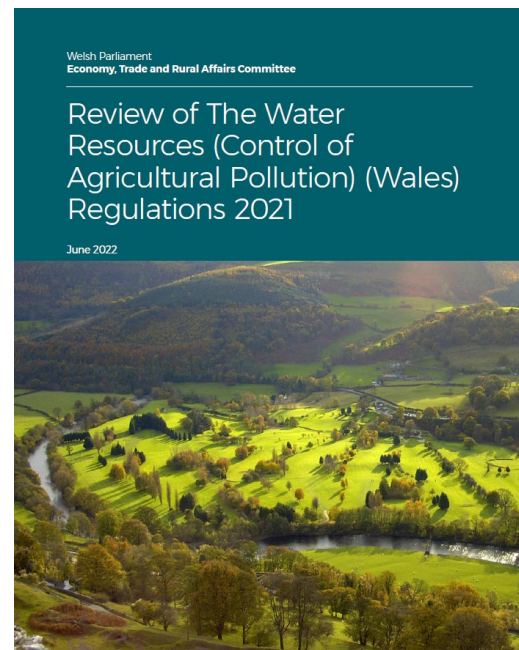
Recent Activities

Hospitality, Tourism and Retail – Raising the Bar



As the summer season got underway the Committee published its report on the recovery and long-term future of these sectors – including powerful first-hand evidence from people working in the visitor economy. The Welsh Government's response is due by 12 October, with a plenary debate expected soon after.

Review of the Water Resources (Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021



Following the outcome of the judicial review of these regulations, the Minister for Rural Affairs gave evidence to the Committee on 11 May, and the Committee reported on 8 June. The Welsh Government's response is expected by 14 September, with a plenary debate currently scheduled for 21 September.

Bovine Tuberculosis

On 20 May the Committee reported on its one-day inquiry into Welsh Government's consultation proposals for a refreshed Bovine TB eradication programme. The Welsh Government responded to the report on 7 July and a plenary debate was held on 13 July.



Scrutiny of Provisional Common Frameworks

The Committee wrote to the Welsh Government seeking more information on the seven frameworks in its remit, including three frameworks prioritised for scrutiny: Agricultural Support; Animal Health and Welfare; and Fertilisers. The responses are published alongside Committee correspondence on the Common Frameworks pages on the Senedd website.

Forward Work Programme

The First Minister has announced Welsh Government's intention to introduce an Agriculture Bill in the Autumn Term. It is likely the Bill will be referred to this Committee and will be the main focus of the autumn term. The Committee also hopes to undertake some scrutiny of research and innovation policy. When more information is available the work programme will be published on the Committee's website. The work programme may change at any time to respond to external events.

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



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



Sarah Murphy MS
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