

Llŷr Gruffydd MS  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

Senedd.Climate@senedd.wales

11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Llŷr,

Thank you for your letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 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 Anna Heslop, Lynda Warren and I to participate in the evidence session on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024. We value the Committee's recommendations.

I note that, as in previous years, the report includes recommendations for both Welsh Government and the IEPAW. We continue to meet regularly with the Environmental Governance team in relation to the bill, in addition to Welsh Government policy teams on relevant areas of work.

Your recommendations for the IEPAW relate primarily to impact monitoring, the increasing number of submissions and how this affects capacity. Also, the transition from the interim arrangements to the new permanent governance body.

As I noted in my response to you last year, the IEPAW has already embarked on processes to improve our impact monitoring. Details of the outcome of processes already in place regarding the impact of our work on these submissions have been included in the IEPAW Annual Report 2023-2024.

As part of our Monitoring, Evaluating and Learning Framework, we are further developing formal processes for the ongoing monitoring of impact. This will be reported on in our Annual Report.

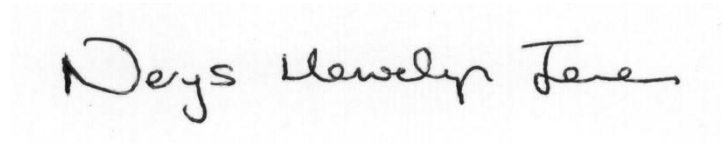
Evaluation of our work processes and resource utilisation also occurs at regular intervals. The Committee has requested that we produce a *Lessons Learned* report for the benefit of the new scrutiny body and to inform the transition. The IEPAW undertakes to complete this by the end of the current term.

We are grateful that the Committee recognises the constraints available resources place on our activity and progress. The appointment of two deputies has

considerably strengthened the capacity of the IEPAW. We are also keen to have permanent legal support added to our current secretariat function.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the committee for their observations and recommendations.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nerys Llewelyn Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping underline.

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