Alun Davies AC / AM Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd Minister for Natural Resources and Food



Eich cyf/Your ref Ein cyf/Our ref

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA

**V** July 2013

## INQUIRY INTO WATER POLICY IN WALES

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the 1 May to help inform your short inquiry in to Water Policy in Wales. I agreed to provide you with an update on the Water Strategy for Wales.

We are currently in discussions with a range of organisations and groups on the development of the Water Strategy which will set out the proposed policy direction for water in Wales and expand on the Strategic Policy Position Statement of February 2011. Our current intention is to publish the draft strategy for consultation in November 2013.

As you are aware, there are currently a number of changes underway in the water sector, including the establishment of Natural Resources Wales, a move to an outcome based approach for price setting and the UK Government Water Bill which was introduced in June 2013. The Water Strategy will be timely to provide direction to the water sector in Wales on the expectations of the Welsh Government and also to ensure that the needs of our citizens, environment and economy are suitably supported by our natural resources.

Alun Davies AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol a Bwyd Minister for Natural Resources and Food